The German Tribune

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Foreign policy growing rapidly more expensive

In Brussels a few weeks ago Nato Defence Ministers resolved to invest billions in bolstering the West's military muscle. This response made sound sense in view of the Soviet arms build-up and has yet to encounter criticism.

Then came the North-South conference in Paris at which sixteen leading industrialised countries and nineteen major commodity suppliers agreed on an aid programme to the Third World that will, in the long term, similarly involve expenditure in the thousands of millions.

In principle the decisions reached at the North-South talks are likewise deemed indispensable and have been welcomed by all Western governments.

Meanwhile the Bonn government continued to backtrack on value added tax at home. It now envisages a VAT increase of one (rather than two) per cent next year from eleven to twelve.

The decision to halve the VAT increase will mean 4,000 million deutschmarks less in additional revenue, but the domestic economic recovery is making such slow headway that the government's decision to opt for discretion rather than valour seems well advised.

Taken on their own, each of these three decisions makes sense and a good case can be argued for all. They were, of course, reached independently, yet the measures resolved in Brussels and Paris seem likely to be more indicative of the future strain on the country's finances than the VAT intermezzo.

The price of foreign policy is increasing by leaps and bounds. This is particularly true of priority sectors such as Nato, the European Community and — progressively — containing the North-South conflict.

There are two main reasons why financial commitments are spiralling:

First, this country now ranks second only to the United States as the West's foremost industrial power. Its payments are in balance even after invisibles have been accounted for, which is more than most countries can claim, and its currency reserves are second to none.

Bonn's relative economic stability is even more noteworthy in comparison with the trials and tribulations of Britain and Italy and France's disappointing failure to regain an even keel.

Second, the Bundeswehr is the largest conventional army in Western Europe. Yet politically the Federal Republic is only a medium-sized power.

Bonn makes no attempt to turn its economic and military position to its own advantage, still less to capitalise on its position to the detriment of its partners' vital interests. Any attempt would, in any case, probably founder on unanimous resistance by the others.

"I warn everyone against striving for German leadership in an economic or any other European context," the Chancellor told the Bundestag on two occasions.

Yet although Helmut Schmidt takes good care to pursue foreign policies or foreign trade policies solely in conjunction with other Nato countries or members of the EEC, a number of neighbours are casting suspicious glances in Bonn's direction.

In view of this country's undeniable strength they wonder whether Bonn might not, on the quiet, be trying to overdraw on its opportunities of exerting political influence.

The fact that many countries are in debt to Bonn is also a drawback. Creditors are never very popular. Yet everywhere this country is expected to make a special economic and financial effort to strengthen the West — in Europe, in Nato and in the North-South dialogue.

In all three sectors we must, however, mobilise our relative strength to an increasing extent on behalf of political solidarity within the West and to restore the world economy to an even keel.

First, the EEC budget has virtually quadrupled in the course of the seventies, mainly due to the mysterious exigencies of Common Agricultural Policy. CAP accounts for three quarters of the Common Market budget, 24,000 million deutschmarks. Bonn foots the lion's share of a bill that is also bound to increase.

The forthcoming extension of the EEC to include Greece, then Portugal and later doubtless Spain will likewise result in costs spiralling. All three countries have a low GNP and too great an emphasis on agriculture. They lack efficient industries.

Their membership may be politically advantageous, but there can be no gainsaying that bridging the economic gap between them and the more affluent members of the EEC will cost a small fortune.

A passing glance at the other members of the Common Market is sufficient to indicate that Bonn again will have to foot an above-average share of the bill.

The only factor that is likely to offset this burden is that the purchasing power of new Common Market members will increase and that, as experience has shown, this country will be the principal beneficiary in its capacity as an industrial exporter.



Kenneth Kaunda visits Bonn

Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda and his wife Betty, with this country's President Walter Scheel, and his wife Mildred, in Bonn on 3 June. President Kaunda also had talks with the Minister for Economic Cooperation Marie Schlei, who said that Bonn would increase its financial and technical aid to Zambia. This will include capital aid of DM80 mill. which is DM10 mill. more than was promised during Frau Schlei's recent Africa tour. (Photo: dpa)

Second, the London Nato summit attended by President Carter was followed by a meeting of Defence Ministers at which Nato countries agreed to step up defence spending as demanded by the United States.

The increase envisaged is three per cent per annum in real terms; in other words, it will more than offset inflation rates. What is more, it is to be concentrated on arms expenditure.

Countries in reduced economic circumstances will be spared the full brunt of the proposed increase, with economically sounder countries shouldering more than their fair share.

This means that Bonn, for one, will no longer be able to increase defence spending at a lower rate than budget increases as a whole, as has hitherto been the case.

The European members of Nato, this country in particular, had no option but to agree to Mr Carter's demand. At the London summit they agreed with the US President that the Soviet arms build-up has assumed alarming proportions and accepted the alternatives. Either the East bloc cuts back on arms expenditure or Nato will have to step up defence spending.

Above all, they do not regard Mr Carter's commitment to the Western alliance ("Nato remains the cornerstone of US foreign policy") as an entirely unconditional pledge.

A number of European leaders reckon the greater defence endeavours Mr Carter has called on Europe to undertake are an ultimatum in all but name. Either Europe steps up its defence commitments or the United States may conduct a political or strategic policy review.

The trouble is that although Bonn will no doubt comply with the Nato decisions reached in Brussels other countries may well backslide, persuaded that this country's efforts alone will prove sufficient to save Nato from decline or decay.

Yet Bonn would very much prefer Nato not to shrink gradually to a special defence relationship between this country and the United States.

Third, the North-South conflict is a meeting point of many of this country's political and trade interests. The Paris talks reached symbolic agreement on a *$1,000 million programme to aid the* poorest developing countries, towards which Bonn is to contribute $300 million.

But the really expensive part of the North-South agreement will be the programme to stabilise commodity prices that was discussed in Paris but will not take shape until the forthcoming Unctad conference at the earliest.

Bonn anticipates a bill of at least $5,000 million that the industrialised countries will be required to foot, with this country contributing eight per cent towards this total.

This estimate, however, is based on the optimistic assumption that Bonn can rely on the support of other industrialised countries in its resistance to the Group of 77's demands for astronomic amounts.

In addition to a moratorium on the debts of the poorest developing countries and a gradual increase in development aid from 0.3 to the agreed level of 0.7 per cent of GNP, the extra cost will be at least a further 4,000 million deutschmarks on the Bonn budget.

In view of the sums involved one may well wonder whether this country is not biting off more than it can chew. Can Bonn shoulder all these burdens without jeopardising its own stability?

This country does, after all, have more than enough problems of its own. They range from unemployment to an urgent review of welfare provisions. What is more, people continue to expect a further increase in living standards.

In his government policy statement last December Helmut Schmidt made it clear that it is wishful thinking to believe that future growth will enable the State to increase its benefits to the taxpayer.

Kurt Becker
(Die Zeit, 3 June 1977)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Marshall Foundation has helped to draw the US and Europe closer together

Willy Brandt, speaking on 5 June 1972, the twenty-fifth anniversary of US Secretary of State George C. Marshall's historic address, reckoned Marshall aid to have been "one of the most fortunate strokes of fate this century."

Mr Marshall's Harvard address certainly marked a turning-point in US policy towards Europe. It testified to America's resolve not to withdraw from Europe, but to lend the Europeans support.

The United States, he proclaimed, did not intend to get its own back on the Axis powers; US policy was to aid European recovery.

This country received roughly 7,000 million deutschmarks in European Recovery Prrogramme funds. Twenty-five years later Willy Brandt chose Harvard as the venue at which to say thank you on behalf of the German people.

Herr Brandt did not content himself with this verbal expression of gratitude and tribute to the former US general and statesman.

After an ovation lasting several minutes the then Bonn Chancellor handed over a red leather album containing a cheque for ten million deutschmarks as his country's first annual contribution towards the newly-established Marshall Foundation.

It was to be the first of fifteen annual contributions totalling 150 million marks. The purpose of the foundation was to help industrialised countries on both sides of the Atlantic to learn from each other in coping with social, political and economic problems.

The Marshall Foundation, with head offices in Washington and Roy Jenkins, *president of the EEC Commission, as its patron, was five years* old on 4 June 1977. How has it set about its task and what progress has been achieved?

One major objective of a highly political nature the foundation achieved at



the font, as it were, testifying both at home and aborad to the Federal Republic's loyalty to Nato and firm alignment with the West.

Bonn's financial backing was designed to demonstrate to the US public that the West Germans had by no means forgotten the country to which they owed their prosperity and security.

A further key objective of the Marshall Foundation was that of reforging at least intellectual ties between America and Europe after a period in which the two had been suffering from a bout of continental drift on the political plane.

US media have never paid much attention to Europe. For years the number of US foreign correspondents has been on the decline. To help remedy this state of affairs the Marshall Foundation set up, at a cost of $130,000, the International Writers' Service.

This service enables a number of well-known European journalists to publish in US newspapers regular articles from and about Europe.

A similar service is rendered by the Atlantic Dateline programme, a weekly radio show in which European commentators review joint problems American radio, it will be appreciated, has traditionally concentrated on domestic news.

Last but not least, the Marshall Foundation helps non-commercial TV channels to screen interviews with European politicians, starting with Helmut Schmidt and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

The foundation also tries to bridge a further communications gap. All industrialised countries face similar problems, yet in the final analysis they deal with them individually and heedless of such experience as their neighbours may have gained.

From a host of common problems the foundation has chosen to concentrate on five: urban affairs, land utilisation, industrial democracy, penology and commodity supplies.

Rapid urban decline has always been the other side of the coin of unbridled US economic growth. In Europe urbanisation has proceeded at a less breakneck pace. European planners have been able to ply US local politicians with valuable insights into slum clearance, pedestrian precincts and even garbage incineration.

In return, as it were, the Marshall Foundation underwrites a project in which US penologists brief British and French authorities on American experience with parole plus subsidised employment and consider how the combination might best be effected in European conditions.

At university the foundation subsidises European studies, a discipline that was on the verge of collapse in the early seventies on account of Vietnam and the rediscovery of China.

It underwrites to the tune of $260,000 the Council for European Studies, to which about forty university departments are affiliated.

On the quiet the foundation also helps to deal with problems of a highly political nature which governments have tended to neglect in view of more pressing demands on their time.

Last year, for instance, an expert gathering in Lisbon was organised in order to increase US awareness of the urgent economic problems democratic Portugal faces. In 1975, it will be recalled, Dr Kissinger wrote off Portugal as lost to the Communists.

After an initial period of two years the Marshall Foundation has so far spent roughly fifteen million deutschmarks. It has tended to neglect public relations

Continued on page 3

Bonn signs new friendship pact with Tonga

This country and Tonga have signed a friendship pact and an agreement on economic and technological cooperation. The two treaties were signed in Bonn by Tongan Premier Prince Fatafehi Tu'Ipelehake and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher of this country.

By the terms of the agreement Bonn undertakes to provide Tonga with a development aid loan of five million deutschmarks which, subject to scrutiny by the Reconstruction Loan Credit Corporation, is earmarked for extensions to Tapu airport.

The Soviet Union had also offered assistance in this project.

At a dinner held in honour of the Tongan Premier Herr Genscher reaffirmed Bonn's view that emerging nations must develop independently and opposed the concept of "ideological export."

The friendship pact replaces a predecessor concluded on 1 November 1876 by Tonga and the German Reich, as it then was.

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(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 2 June 1977)

Balance of power shifting in Moscow's favour, says Bonn

The Soviet Union is intent on improving its power status, especially with regard to Nato, the Bonn government concludes in a written answer to Bundestag questions tabled by both sides of the House.

Bonn's views on security and defence policy run to nearly sixty printed pages and were published and circulated to MPs early this month.

Government views are expressed in low key, yet they leave no doubt as to how seriously the Bonn Cabinet regards the security position of the Federal Republic and Nato against the background of the all-round race with the Soviet Union.

In Bonn's view Moscow is "intent on using its military strength as the crucial factor in Soviet world power status to continue to change in its own favour the balance of world power, particularly with regard to Nato."

The Federal government notes with anxiety the growing Soviet ability "to deploy armed forces widely, particularly naval and air force units.

"This worldwide projection of military power forms part and parcel of Soviet foreign policy," the report continues, "and smaller countries run the risk of political pressure being brought to bear on them."

The report deals in detail with the balance of military power between East and West, comprehensively assessing whether or not the Soviet Union, in conjunction with the other Warsaw Pact countries, is in a position to attack Nato from a standing start, as it were.

Bonn rejects this idea, being convinced that not even the Warsaw pact can launch an attack entirely without preparation. In view of its conventional superiority, however, the East bloc is felt capable of launching a full-scale attack on Western Europe without resort to nuclear weapons and after brief preparations.

Since the Soviet Union and its satellites still need to make preparations prior to an attack, albeit only brief ones, Bonn feels Nato is in a position to take suitable precautions.

Time must be gained for the West to step up its defence preparedness and this, Bonn maintains, is best done by responding in good time to heightening political tension. What constitutes good time is not specified.

"The military warning period and the time required to make appropriate preparations," the report laconically notes, "are classified information of the highest Nato category." The government is prepared to go into greater detail, but only to the Bundestag defence committee.

Indirectly, however, Bonn does provide an answer to the claim by General Close of Belgium that the Warsaw Pact could, in view its military presence and strength and other favourable circumstances, reach the Rhine within 48 hours.

"The military threat to the Federal Republic of Germany that arises from Warsaw Pact potential in Cetral Europe," the report notes, "cannot be viewed in isolation from the Nato framework and defence planning.

"In the circumstances the Warsaw Pact would be running a considerable risk to launch an attack solely with the armed forces immediately available. It could certainly not take Nato by surprise, especially if its objective is to reach distant strategic targets.

"This would require additional preparations that could not be kept secret and would provede Nato with more time in which to prepare its own defence."

On conventional armed forces ratios in Europe the Bonn report has this to say:

— On Nato's northern flank the West continues to be at a disadvantage in both ground and airborne forces.

— On the southern flank the repercussions of the Cyprus crisis have proved detrimental to the preparedness of both the Greek and Turkish armed forces.

— In Central Europe as defined by the MBFR terms of reference the Warsaw Pact has 150,000 men and 10,000 tanks more than Nato stationed.

This imbalance is intensified by Nato's geo-strategic disadvantages, the build-up of Soviet airlift capacity and rail facilities and the Soviet Union's growing naval potential, which threatens Atlantic supply routes.

Rüdiger Moniac

(Die Welt, 2 June 1977)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Opposition hard line remains over *Deutschlandpolitik*

Perennial issues in the dispute between Government and Opposition have for many years been this country's *Deutschlandpolitik* and *Ostpolitik*. Hardly any other topic has given rise to as many controversies between the two camps.

As a result, considerable hope was pinned on CDU chairman Helmut Kohl when he became Opposition Leader. And indeed he has cleverly managed to raise hopes for a change in the Opposition's ideas concerning these issues.

At its last party conference in Düsseldorf in March, the CDU presented as a speaker the political scientist Curt Gasteyer who advocated a *Deutschlandpolitik* which would strengthen the self-confidence of the GDR. He also suggested that the CDU cease pursuing reunification as a short-range goal.

The CDU MP Alois Mertes recently came into the limelight when, analysing Bonn's foreign policy, he arrived at the remarkable conclusion — remarkable because Herr Mertes does by no means pursue a flexible line concerning these two issues — that "a consensus exists between Government and Opposition in the major aspects of *Deutschlandpolitik* and *Ostpolitik*.

In other words, CDU and CSU would essentially pursue the same course should they come to power."

Walther Leisler Kiep, the CDU's Treasurer, whose ideas resemble those of Helmut Kohl, has only recently returned from East Berlin where he talked to GDR representatives. And the Deputy Floor Leader, Richard von Weizsäcker, calls for a differentiated way of looking at the issues whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Must not all this be regarded as an indication that the CDU is engaged in a process of rethinking?

In any event, it is no longer considered impossible that the CDU might try to bridge the gap between Government and Opposition — especially in view of the fact that a certain consensus appears desirable. The reason for this is that the present stagnation in *Deutschlandpolitik* and *Ostpolitik* can only be overcome by new impulses.

But if more agreements with East bloc states — and there are a number of them ready to be signed — become a bone of contention between Government and Opposition it is obvious that such a state of affairs can hardly be conducive to further reconciliation between East and West.

Even so, the SPD/FDP Coalition will have to come to terms with such a possibility because the bridging of the gap between the two camps concerning these issues will not take place as evidenced by the latest *Deutschlandpolitik* debate in the Bundestag.

The loosening-up exercises within the Opposition will remain isolated phenomena.

Those elements within the CDU/CSU which advocated a more realistic assessment of *Deutschlandpolitik* and *Ostpolitik* will remain lone voices in the wilderness.

Whenever the CDU/CSU delve into the subject in an official capacity — and they have amply done so in the latest debate — the old hard line course of differentiation and rejection will remain. And Abelein, Wrangel, Zimmermann and Graf Huyn will continue to pursue a collision course.

Even Helmut Kohl has been unable to eliminate the impression of wavering on the part of the Opposition.

The CDU/CSU's representatives in Parliament are proving to be even more obdurate than the party as a whole. As a result, *Deutschlandpolitik* debates in the Bundestag will continue to be held with a look backward rather than forward.

Heinz Verfürth

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 1 June 1977)

Schmidt defends action with which court ruled unconstitutional

Reproof, constructive mistrust and no-confidence vote are keywords in Bonn today, and they indicate hard times ahead. The same phenomena marked the weeks and months before the resignation of Chancellor Ludwig Erhard and the 1972 stalemate in the Bundestag which led to premature elections.

It is indicative of the situation in Bonn then and today that the strength of the Government Coalition is being put to the test.

Who would have believed only a few days ago that the simple announcement of a censure motion against the Chancellor could create such uncertainly?

All this came about by a Constitutional Court ruling concerning the allocation of funds by the Chancellor in his former capacity as Finance Minister in which the Court found that Helmut Schmidt had acted unconstitutionally by allocating funds without parliamentary

Nordwest Zeitung

approval, thus making possible what the CDU/CSU Opposition had failed to manage despite its strength in the Bundestag.

It is remarkable that the coalition partners have been unable to counter the attacks by a demonstration of solidarity.

In the end the Chancellor himself had to confront Parliament in order to ward off the Opposition's onslaught.

It was a dramatic decision: a state visit had to be postponed for two hours, a press conference had to be called at short notice and defence arguments had to be gathered during the night.

But the unusual press conference was evidently not only intended as a means of countering Opposition accusations. It was also directed — although tacitly — at the Coalition.

Herr Schmidt not only accused the Opposition of shirking a constructive no-confidence vote as a means of bringing about a change in the Chancellorship from Schmidt to Kohl, but he also permitted the Coalition to get a glimpse of his parliamentary arsenal.

The Chancellor said that he saw no reason so far to raise the question of confidence. But he clearly intimated that this would be unavoidable if the coalition majority were not to be united in voting on a possible CDU/CSU motion of reproof or in the subsequent mitigating of the Constitutional Court ruling.

Helmut Schmidt made his position quite clear, namely that the Coalition can only survive with him as Chancellor.

The demonstration of solidarity on the part of SPD and FDP followed shortly thereafter. The announcements of the coalition parties, in which they promised to support the Government notwithstanding the Constitutional Court ruling, are virtually identical.

They have adopted the Chancellor's main argument, namely that the thousands of millions that were allocated without parliamentary approval were invested in an economically meaningful manner. They argue that anything that happened in the interest of state cannot be a violation of the Constitution concerning the handling of tax revenues.

But the Opposition will now do all in its power to prove that appropriateness does not excuse illegality.

The Court's records will serve as a goldmine of arguments to the effect that the expenditures under dispute were not so urgent as to warrant circumventing Parliament in order to keep the huge surpluses of 1973 a secret for as long as possible.

The Opposition contends that, had these surpluses been known the high budget for the following year could hardly have been made plausible.

It is likely that there is a good reason why the Chancellor was isolated for a few hours and why it proved hard to instil solidarity in the Coalition.

Peter Hopen

(Nordwest Zeitung, 28 May 1977)

Continued from page 2

and it remains to be seen which projects have taken root and which may yet seem a little half-baked. Take, for instance, the $100,000 earmarked for an international commission on the North-South dialogue that is to be chaired by Willy Brandt.

Be that as it may, the fifth anniversary of the endowment of the Marshall Foundation is of twofold symbolic significance:

In providing Marshall aid in 1947 the United States abandoned a sacrosanct tradition of isolationism. In setting up the Marshall Foundation in 1972 Europe avowed its intention of demonstrating equal rights.

America, the message went, must not only afford patronage and protection; there is still a great deal it can learn from Europe.

Josef Joffe

(Die Zeit, 3 June 1977)

Opposition may challenge law change in court

The Opposition is once more toying with the idea of resorting to the Constitutional Court — at least the CSU seems determined to resort to that Court in order to bring about an amendment of the military and civilian service legislation which has recently been passed by a Coalition majority following a long tug-of-war.

The purpose of the new law is to change the complicated and unsatisfactory procedure to which conscientious objectors are subjected by entirely eliminating the panel which rules on the application.

A written statement would be all a draftee would need to present in future. Instead of serving 15 months in the Bundeswehr he would then be drafted for civilian service for a period of 18 months.

The new law which the CSU — and the CDU, which is still undecided whether to go to court or not — termed a "catastrophe" and a "disregard for our security" should have been amended years ago according to Coalition politicans as well as to the majority of defence experts.

And indeed freedom of conscience as guaranteed by the Constitution in deciding whether to opt for military or civilian service cannot be examined in classroom fashion.

In the final analysis, the convincing argument of a university graduate with all the rhetoric at his disposal provides as little insight into his true motives as do the stammering and the contradictions of a young unskilled worker.

Civilian service in an old people's home or in the care of the physically and mentally handicapped is every bit as constructive as military service in peacetime.

Moreover, the Opposition contention that the Bundeswehr would one day prove unable to recruit the necessary number of men is unfounded where the foreseeable future is concerned.

The majority of our young men are quite prepared to do their military service and appreciate the advantages of an employer such as the Bundeswehr (every second Bundeswehr member is now already a volunteer or a career soldier).

Even a sudden increase in the number of application for civilian service would not cause any trouble since only one in two potential conscripts can be drafted. But nevertheless should this unlikely contingeny arise, there is a built-in emergency brake in the law which provides for a return to the former method in a revised form.

Even military representatives and high-ranking officers agree with this assessment of the situation.

The fact that parts of the Opposition, headed by Franz Josef Strauss, act more martially than the military itself by their intended recourse to the Constitutional Court could easily create the impression that the principle of national service is to be driven into the ground.

Or is the whole thing — as in the case of the threat by CDU/CSU members of the Defence Committee for the first time not to approve of the military budget — once more an attempt at bringing about a political confrontation through recourse to the law?

Günter Gesehke

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 5 June 1977)

THE MEDIA

Newspaper or TV – that is the question

The sun still shines over the German media scene, as was evident by the optimism which reigned supreme at the first Hamburg Media Congress held in the Citizens' Hall of the Rathaus.

Alfred Neven DuMont, publisher of theKölner Stadt-Anzeiger, proudly listed a few significant figures. Circulation of daily newspapers stands at 22 million and that of weekly magazines at 25 to 30 million. There are 21.7 million owners of radios and 20 million television owners in this country.

Despite the fact that many newspapers have been swallowed up by large publishing concerns, there are still 364 newspapers in the Federal Republic of Germany – more than three times as many as in Britain.

But unrest is in the offing for our media world. The days of division of power between radio and the press are coming to an end. The culprit is the screened newspaper – a word created by the publishers.

The screened newspaper, also known as videotext or teletext, is an up and coming new medium which has become the bone of contention in the tug-of-war between radio stations, publishers and trade unions.

As the editor-in-chief of the German news agency dpa, Hans Benirschke, put it in a summation at the end of the congress, "the struggle for the grey zones has begun."

The number of open questions surrounding the new medium is considerable. And since it remains uncertain whether or not videotext will achieve a breakthrough and succeed in taking the wind out of the sails of newspapers or whether it will play a mere marignal role, speculation is rife.

Said Herr Benirschke: "Fear of the unknown dominated discussions at the congress."

Videotext is essentially the transmission of written information onto a TV screen via a special television channel. The transmission takes place (or can take place) while the text is being written, but it can also be stored in a computer and made available on demand.

In Britain, where both the state-owned television system and private companies provide videotext via a so-called switch-off gap in the normal TV programme – the text must be decoded by an attachment to the normal TV set – videotext can now already be received in every household equipped to that effect. But the attachments for TV sets are still very expensive.

Colin McIntyre, editor-in-chief of the BBC videotext Ceefax, described the functioning of his system at the congress.

Ceefax transmits political information, stock exchange reports, sporting events, weather forecasts, theatre and cinema schedules and cooking recipes for 16 hours a day.

The information is stored in a computer, which means that the customer can avail himself of it at any given time without having to wait for a particular time slot.

News items are written matter-of-factly, said Mr McIntyre, without unnecessary adornment. As a result, the editing of Ceefax news requires thoroughbred journalists.

Such a system is still non-existent in the Federal Republic of Germany. But it is scheduled to be shown at this year's Berlin Radio Exhibition.

Both the *Bundesverband der Deutschen Zeitungsverleger*, BDZV, (Federal Association of German Newspaper Publishers) and the broadcasting networks claim the new medium for themselves.

The publishers argue that the printed word is by no means the decisive characteristic of a newspaper.

Newspapers can also be texts, they say, which are transmitted electronically and received on a screen. If newspapers were to be excluded from modern technology, major parts of their contents would be eroded.

The radio networks, on the other hand, maintain that the videotext system falls in the category of TV broadcasts and must therefore legally be considered as "radio".

Moreover, videotext can essentially only provide headlines, leaving amplification to established media such as newspapers. It can therefore never be a serious competition for them. This was the view put forward by the director of *Süddeutscher Rundfunk*, Herr Bausch.

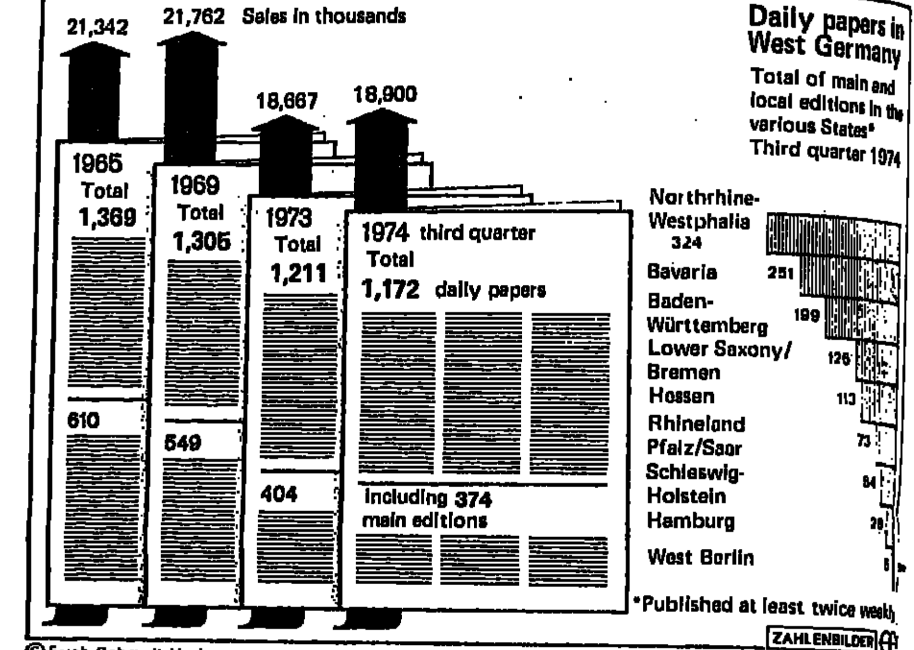
Although the various interest groups substantiated their claims by legal opinions and definitions, there is still some uncertainty as to what exactly the new medium is capable of providing.

Dietrich Ratzke, editor of *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* and media expert, attributes to videotext the function of a supplement to printed newspapers.

Videotext, he said, is faster and thus relieves conventional newspapers of the pressure of having to be topical, come what may.

The newspapers, he went on to say, could then take on the function of weeklies published daily. Videotext whets the appetite of the reader, which can then be satisfied by background reports in the daily press.

As a result, Herr Ratzke pointed out, he cannot imagine that the newspapers have a future other than in conjunction with the videotext system.



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The Printers' Union, which was represented in Hamburg by its entire Executive Committee, still seems unable to categorise the new medium.

Committee member Detlef Hensche spoke on the one hand of the videotext system being "tremendously over-rated" while on the other hand maintaining that the new medium is so dangerous as to make it necessary to place it under state guardianship.

In order to spoil the appetite of the advertising media for the allegedly overrated possibilities of videotext, programmes should be financed exclusively by means of licence fees.

This restrictive attitude on the part of the trade unions is due to their concern that the publishers, once they have been able to lay their hands on the new medium, would become a competition for their own newspapers and destroy them in the end.

The publishers, too, are still uncertain as to the effects the introduction of the new medium could have on their own newspapers.

When Hans Büttner, chief executive of the Journalists' Union, which forms part of the Printers' Union, depicted the future of newspapers in the bleakest of colours, Herr Neven DuMont interjected: "Shall we do nothing about it, or shall we leave it to others to do something?"

Pilot projects which are envisaged - although they have not yet taken on concrete form – are to establish how the public would react to the new medium and which programmes and services stand a chance of success.

At the moment it is still unknown whether there is a genuine demand for videotext. The challenge emanates from the new technology rather than from the market about the reaction of which we can only speculate.

Professor Witte, chairman of the Commission for Technical Means of Communication advocates a limited period of experimenting and an attitude of equanimity towards innovation without procrastinating when it comes to making a decision. Said he: "It is impossible for us to forgo an innovation."

Hans-Anton Papendieck

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 28 May 1977)

Pilot plan for closed-circuit TV in city

The SPD in Northrhine-Westphalia's state parliament expressed itself in favour of a pilot project for closed-circuit television under the auspices of *Westdeutscher Rundfunk* (WDR) on 31 May.

The SPD stressed that closed-circuit television was "broadcasting" and that it must unequivocally be pursued in the form of a state-controlled company. Moreover, daily newspapers must not be placed in jeopardy. As a result, the pilot project must renounce all advertising.

The envisaged pilot programme should initially be restricted to the inner city of Cologne, although SPD Floor Leader Haak considers that city unsuitable. He pointed out, however, that the venue of the project was immaterial and that it should be left to the boradcasting committees to make a decision.

Said Haak: "The WDR pilot programme must enable us to gather experience for supplementary broadcasting legislation."

The CDU, on the other hand, advocated participation of newspaper publishers in the new project and warned against excessive haste.

The FDP is clearly reserved where closed-circuit TV is concerned. It intends to discuss the matter shortly with Cologne newspaper publishers and "adamantly opposes commercials in the pilot programme," as the party's Parliamentary Administrator, Wolfgang Heinz, put it.

But even unpaid services as envisaged by WDR, such as church service schedules, cinema programmes, lists of duty doctors and pharmacists, etc., could considerably curtail the market opportunities of dailies.

The FDP considers a Northrhine-Westphalian city with only one daily newspaper more promising for the pilot project than Cologne.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 1 June 1977)

Trade magazines seek support

Trade magazine publishers in the Federal Republic of Germany are concerned about the advance of financially strong foreign publishers on the German market.

This was a focal point at their congress in Mainz. At the same time the publishers drew attention to the fact that the merger process in the trade magazine sector has not yet reached the proportions that mark the newspaper business.

The President of the Bundesrat, Rhineland-Palatinate's Prime Minister Bernhard Vogel (CDU), assured the representatives of some 220 publishing houses during a reception in the State Chancellery in Mainz that the Federal states would lend support.

Herr Vogel emphasised that trade magazines were particularly badly affected by the rapidly growing postal fees for printed matter.

Rhineland-Palatinate Minister of Education Hanna Renate Laurien said there was no alternative to trade magazines in the entire educational and training sector.

Frau Laurien called on publishers to step up the dissemination of information beyond limited specialised fields. Objectivity in trade journals can be ensured by balance and variety of articles on the one hand and by a multitude of publications on the other.

(Die Welt, 25 May 1977)

BONN-WARSAW RELATIONS

Danzig's 'Hamburg Days' show how the historic gap is closing

Using her very best handwriting, a little girl wrote in the guest book of the information show of the "Hamburg Days" in Gdansk, Poland (formerly Danzig): *Bardzo Jestescie Fajni* which roughly translated means "You are the greatest".

The same view seems to have prevailed among the youthful Gdansk audience at performances of the Hamburg folk rock group *Ougenweide* which, in unique instrumentation and electronically amplified, presented modernised troubadour and other old German songs.

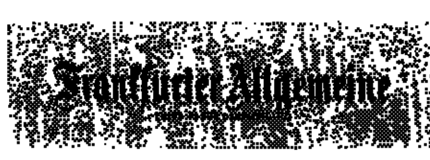
When the group called on the public to dance along there was an enormous response. Virtually all those present joined hands and danced amid the rows of chairs, eventually reverting to the accustomed beat movements. In the end they sang for the Hamburg musicians the old Polish song *Sto Lat* (May he live a hundred years).

Other performances by the Hamburg guests were received with similar enthusiasm.

The "Hamburg Days" in Gdansk provided the city with an opportunity to reciprocate the "Polish Days" in Hamburg in 1975. Close to a dozen chartered aircraft carried participants including the ballet of the State Opera, athletes, and Hamburg MPs in the Bundestag to Gdansk.

According to the Hamburg organisers, this was the greatest self-depiction of the Federal Republic of Germany abroad.

The response was enormous, and it was evident from the very beginning that the "Hamburg Days" were not a peripheral event and a mere demonstration marking the normalisation of German-Polish relations.



For many performances – and not only for the concerts of James Last and his band in the Zopot Forest Opera – there were not enough tickets to meet all requests.

The fact tht, in the beginning, some places were not entirely filled – as for instance in the case of the Hamburg jazz bands – was not due to lack of interest, but to excessive admission fees for local conditions. It goes to show that it takes some time before conditions in a foreign country have been fathomed.

Local newspapers devoted a great deal of space and attention to the "Hamburg Days" although national media showed some restraint.

As the "Hamburg Days" drew to a close it became obvious that they were anything but a flop – disregarding certain experiences concerning things that should be done better next time.

Among the many positive entries in the visitors' book at the booth of the German-Polish Society, Hamburg, at the information show there were some critical remarks – above all to the effect that a bit more of what is typical for today's Germany should have been on exhibit.

And indeed the show consisted primarily of beautiful and impressive as well as aptly captioned photographs of Hamburg and its people, of the Federal Republic of Germany in general and of Hamburg companies.

It seems obvious that what the Polish public missed most was a realistic depiction – preferably not only in the form of photographs and descriptive material – of the fairytale world of West Germany as a consumer paradise.

It seems that the Hamburg organisers showed deliberate restraint in that respect – possibly at the request of the Polish hosts who obviously did not want to stress the gap in the standard of living between Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany.

But detailed information concerning the way of life of an average German family – as for instance the Hamburg bank employee's family which was depicted in a large photograph – its monthly budget, what they can afford and what they have to save for, could have had an effect which might have been welcome even to Poland's Communist leaders and which would at least have contributed towards getting to know each other.

This would have led to the realisation that Germany is not a country of unlimited possibilities and that many goods which are in short supply in Poland and of which most citizens there can only dream are abundantly available in West Germany, but that the widespread unrealistic ideas concerning the life of an average German citizen have to be amended and that the German cannot afford everything he would like to have.

Alas, the elimination of exaggerated illusions would require an information campaign which would initially make the Poles aware of the irksome fact that the vanquished invaders of the Second World War are much better off than their first victim and nominal co-winner of the war.

This makes it extremely difficult to depict Germany for a general public in Poland in areas that extend beyond the relatively unproblematic sectors of music and sport.

It is still unclear how relations between Hamburg and Gdansk are supposed to continue after the "Hamburg Days", whether there will be other such "Days" in the two cities in the years to come and how the contacts established between the jazz musicians and the athletes of the two cities will develop in the normal course and without the special framework of such "Days".

All this will have to be discussed. Hamburg for one would be delighted if the city's presence in Gdansk and vice versa could be institutionalised, thus leading to continued exchange and cooperation between various organisations "without the necessity of official political impulses" as Professor Dieter Biallas, Hamburg's Deputy Mayor, put it.

But whether or not this will be possible in view of Poland's bureaucratic and centralised system of government, which requires a state treaty for virtually everything, remains to be seen. Moreover, Hamburg would like to have possible future "Days" accompanied by a stream of normal tourists.

The "Hamburg Days" in Gdansk have clearly contributed towards closing the gap between Poles and Germans – a gap resulting from painful historic experience – to the limited extent to which such reciprocal visits are capable of doing so.

This is borne out by the entries in the visitors' book. A few more such "small steps" towards each other and we could perhaps speak of friendship between the two nations, having overcome the past, wrote one visitor.

Another, who used two full pages, said that he first hesitated to visit the exhibition and having done so and spoken to Hamburgers he lost the impression of German arrogance which he had gained in the course of encounters with Germans in the Third World.

Erik-Michael Bader

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 31 May 1977)

West German – Polish relations are clearly on the mend

Our public opinion of East bloc countries is dominated by the discussion about civil rights movements there.

But these phenomena, which have recently been in the limelight, are only indicative of a complex development process in the other political hemisphere. This is particularly clearly demonstrated by the internal events in Poland and by the improvement in Poland's relations with the Federal Republic of Germany.

Prior to the Treaty on the Normalisation of Mutual Relations of December 1970, German-Polish links were the most delicate in the entire East-West realm. Both sides were burdened by millions of dead resulting from war and occupation terror, cities that were turned into heaps of rubble, millions of refugees and lost homelands.

Since the conclusion of the Treaty, trade between the Federal Republic of Germany and Poland has risen startlingly, exceeding the DM5,000 million mark.

In 1976, a total of 400,000 West Germans visited Poland and 200,000 Poles came to Germany. There is a lively cultural exchange, and progress had been made even in the difficult question of historic depiction and interpretation in text books, although much still remains problematic.

Poland's Deputy Foreign Minister Czyrek, speaking in a small circle in Warsaw, recently characterised German-Polish relations by aptly saying: "It works."

And indeed difficulties that might arise from time to time between Bonn and Warsaw are not so much due to differences between the two countries as to the overall East-West situation or to Moscow' strategy.

Thus for instance the March campaign in which Polish media and Works Council meetings spoke of an alleged revival of revanchism in the Federal Republic of Germany was no more than Poland's contribution to the Moscow-directed concert intended as a response to the civil rights movement on the eve of the CSCE Follow-up Conference in Belgrade.

This sort of thing is not taken seriously by the Polish public.

The seemingly hopeless German-Polish relations of only a few years ago are clearly on the mend. And Warsaw's Foreign Ministry does not hesitate to term these relations a model for the possibility of peacefully solving historic conflicts.

The traditional West orientation of the Poles has as of recently been linked with an open-minded recognition and indeed admiration for Germany's economic capacity – an admiration which is no longer tinged with political prejudices and reservations.

All in all, the Federal Republic of Germany is more and more viewed as an important factor in an increasingly close-knit Europe rather than as a menacing national state.

This new lack of a fear of latent threat has had a considerable effect on the internal political climate in Poland.

Although there has never been much love lost between Warsaw and Moscow, propaganda nevertheless fairly successfully depicted the Soviet Union as a guarantor of security within the framework of a status quo.

It is amazing how openly not only the public, but even functionaries nowadays express their distaste for the backwardness of the big neighbour in the East.

An explosive mixture of having had enough of backwardness and of having to make do and mend and of admiration for Western performance, Western affluence and the Western way of life is clearly in evidence behind the thin facade of Communism.

Patriotism and above all Catholicism rest on a thousand-year old tradition in Poland. Their roots have hitherto withstood every onslaught – and this can certainly not be said of Communism. Its regime has to arrive at a compromise with these two elements. And in the future it will increasingly have to deal with a third element, namely an inclination towards the West.

The civil rights movement is a product of this complex development in which it plays a major role.

Even the hierarchy of functionaries to some extent tolerates this movement as a form of opposition which imparts some life to the uniform political monoculture and which could conceivably promote a certain process of democratisation. But this is only one aspect in the complicated picture of reform efforts.

The situation calls for a great deal of circumspection on the part of all concerned. Only such circumspection and a development which is controllable at all times can prevent a destructive reaction on the part of Moscow at the head of a bloc. Such a development can make use of the fact that certain trends in Soviet society also point towards differentiation and pluralism.

Claus Preller

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 1 June 1977)

■ NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE

West lacks a clear concept in its talks with developing countries

At first glance it is hard to see how the Ministerial Round of the North-South Dialogue in Paris, which began on 30 May, can point the way towards reducing unemployment in the Federal Republic of Germany.

But the conference of eight industrialised and 19 developing nations, which is seeking an equitable economic balance between the northern and southern hemispheres, could very well help overcome the world-wide recession.

In our hemisphere we are confronted with unutilised production capacities and jobless workers who could produce goods which the other hemisphere urgently needs.

If it were possible to provide potential buyers in the Third World with the necessary money it would instantly become clear how the developing countries could help to reduce unemployment in Germany.

But the industrialised nations have not yet reached that point. Since the end of Unctad IV last May they have been unable to arrive at a common stand. It had been hoped that at least the seven most important nations of the West would develop a joint concept at the London Summit. But this did not materialise.

The only result of the London meeting in this sector was the vaguely formulated willingness on the part of the United States to co-finance a one-shot special action to the tune of 1,000 million dollars aimed at relieving the debt burden of the poorest of developing nations.

But it is still unknown whether President Carter is prepared to put his share of 375 million dollars in the common pot or whether he wants to assist the recipients on a bilateral basis.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt put his conditions for this one-shot assistance on the line in London: The deal must not be permitted to prejudice future measures, it must not become automatic, the Opec countries must participate in it, and the whole thing must become part of a policy of give and take.

The Chancellor's hope that agreement would be reached on the question of raw materials failed to materialise. But blame must not be attributed to the Bonn Government alone although it has hitherto been the only government within the EEC which is not prepared to make premature concessions for the sake of apparent peace.

The German position, which had been unclear for more than a year, has meanwhile taken some shape.

It can roughly be described as follows: If the industrialised nations were to give in to demands for a New International Economic Order their economic capacity would be affected to such an extent as to place the free market system in jeopardy without bringing any benefits to the developing nations.

Only a give and take policy can provide genuine assistance.

Investments in the Third World would therefore have to be protected, and the Opec countries would have to participate in all decisions and bear the financial consequences. Moreover, the West must not hesitate to list all commitments which the industrialised nations have already taken upon themselves.

The results are nothing to be ashamed of. Virtually all industrialised nations of the West have stepped up their development aid during the past three years — both in relative and in absolute terms.

- Even though only few countries have achieved the target of 0.7 per cent of their GNP in government development aid, developments in this sector have nevertheless been positive. Development aid among OECD countries rose from 11,300 million dollars in 1974 to 13,900 million dollars in 1976.

In the Opec countries it rose from 2,500 million to 2,600 million dollars in 1975 (later figures are not available). In the Comecon countries it dropped from 1,200 million to 800 million dollars in 1975.

- The industrialised countries have pledged to pay about 8,000 million dollars through the World Bank subsidiary IDA to the poorer developing nations.
- The European Community concluded the Lomé Agreement with 52 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries through which 3,800 million dollars are to be provided over a five-year period. Of this amount, 420 million dollars are intended for a Fund for the stabilisation of export yields.
- Through the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) the European Community has unilaterally reduced tariffs for tropical products, finished and semi-finished goods and for agricultural products from the developing nations.
- At the Jamaica Conference in January 1976 the industrialised nations opened up new sources of credit for raw materials exporting developing countries through the International Monetary Fund to the tune of an estimated 1,500 million dollars.
- Since 1975 developing nations have made more use of IMF credits. The developing nations' share in drawings to offset fluctuations in export yields amounted to 150 million dollars in 1975, rising to 1,500 million dollars in 1976. Normal drawings by developing nations rose during the same period from 500,000 to 800,000 dollars.
- IMF gold sales provided profits of 500 million dollars by April 1977, which went into the Trust Fund providing credits for the poorest developing nations on favourable terms.
- The ratio and voting rights of developing nations in the IMF have shifted at the expense of the industrialised countries.
- The more than 1,000 million dollars Fund for Agricultural Development, which was established in 1976, has been fed by the industrialised nations to the tune of 576.3 million, by the Opec countries to the tune of 435.5 million and by the developing nations themselves to the tune of 9.3 million dollars.

Thus, the Western industrialised nations need not hang their heads in shame. This is particularly true in comparison with the paltry development aid provided by the East bloc which anyway consists primarily of military hardware. In 1975, for instance, the Federal Republic of Germany provided twice as much development aid as all Communist countries put together.

But the developing countries want more. They demand a general moratorium on debts for the poorest nations and those hardest hit by oil price increases.

Government and private indebtedness of the Third World to the West at present amounts to an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 million dollars. It would be impossible to finance a cancellation of these debts.

But in order to show goodwill the West is prepared to offer the poorest of the developing nations the 1,000 million dollar deal agreed at the London Summit for debt relief. The Third World, however, considers this mere alms.

The Germans also consider the Integrated Raw Materials Programme as proposed by the Unctad Secretary General, an unsuitable instrument.

All — and not only the developing — raw materials producing countries would profit from such world-wide controls.

The United States, Canada, Australia, South Africa and the Soviet Union would pocket enormous profits while only few developing nations would derive any genuine benefit.

Moreover, price manipulation would interfere in the functioning of commodity markets and rescources in short supply would be used uneconomically.

The Bonn Government therefore proposes a system for the stabilisation of export yields.

This would have the advantage of directly and genuinely benefiting needy countries, would set a ceiling for financial involvement and would not necessitate interference in price mechanisms.

The system would be applicable to all developing countries and would involve 25 commodities. Chancellor Schmidt is moreover, prepared to negotiate the list of raw materials.

Diminished export yields would be offset by low interest loans. Subsidies would be considered in particularly serious cases. According to German estimates, the programme would require 5,000 million dollars if all developing nations were to be included.

The Bonn Government, in consultation with its partners in the European Community, has agreed to "negotiate individual raw materials agreements in suitable cases" and to be open-minded concerning a Common Fund.

But Bonn would consider such a Fund only as a clearing house which would offset surpluses and deficits of individual funds. The industrialised nations can no longer raise fundamental objections to raw materials agreements because they accepted the procedure passed in Nairobi.

Rudolf Herlt

(Die Zeit, 27 May 1977)

Public opinion against raw materials plan

There is virtually no chance that the general public in the Federal Republic of Germany would accept an Integrated Raw Materials Programme and a Common Fund as proposed by the developing nations at Unctad IV. People in this country do not believe that this is a meaningful solution for development problems.

This transpired from the second round of public raw materials hearings in the relevant Bundestag Committee. Participants in the hearings were above all researchers, the churches, labour and management and business associations.

The churches can discern some rudiments of a solution, but they would like the individual points of the Raw Materials Programme to be reviewed.

The economic research institutes were clearly at odds with each other. While the HWWA Institute maintains that development problems cannot be solved without prior solution of the raw materials issue where even individual agreements are meaningful, the Kiel Institute for World Economy expressed doubts with regard to such agreements.

Much time was devoted to discussion concerning the extent to which raw materials agreements should be permitted to interfere in free market forces. In this connection frequent reference was made to the sorry state of the EEC agricultural system.

Business representatives advocated a more open market, more development aid and yield stabilisation rather than an Integrated Raw Materials Programme.

(Handelsblatt, 26 May 1977)

Economic upswing continuing

The economic upswing is continuing, according to *Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung*, DIW, (German Institute for Economic Research) Berlin in its latest weekly report.

The Institute feels that the optimistic forecasts whereby the growth in the GNP would exceed 5 per cent still hold true.

DIW believes that the growth in the first six months of 1977 will amount to 3.5 per cent over the same period last year. But overall growth should pick up in the second half of the year — primarily due to increased private consumption and exports.

Investments for plant and equipment, on the other hand, are expected to rise only moderately. Low interest rates and investment subsidies are expected to lead to stepped up construction work.

The low growth rate in the GNP at the beginning of the year is attributable to increased production (plus 1.5 per cent). The Institute points to the difference in the development of various branches of industry.

Surprisingly, production of capital goods in the first quarter of this year rose by 3.5 per cent while diminishing in the food industry.

The DIW is anything but optimistic concerning the employment situation. Increased production has been achieved by streamlining rather than by the employment of new staff.

According to their report "the volume of work stagnated in the first quarter although the number of employed rose slightly. But this increase in employment has been offset by generally shorter working hours per capita."

Peter Weertz

(Die Welt, 26 May 1977)

■ INDUSTRY

Tourists flock to the ailing Ruhr as blast furnaces close down

The present economic situation in the Ruhr area can be summed up as follows: when anthracite mining and the steel industry are doing badly the whole area suffers.

The fact that the steel industry does virtually no overtime anymore and that one of four workers works short shift is felt not only by firms supplying the steel industry, but by the region's business as a whole, including even the pubs.

Contrary to the commonly-held view that the economic structure of the Ruhr area has been diversified in the past few years — for example by the establishment of plants by Dupont in the east and Opel in Bochum — the importance of coal mining and the steel industry, which were dominant until the first post-war years, has increased rather than diminished latterly.

Of the 670,000 people employed by industry, some 42 per cent are employed in anthracite mining and in the steel industry. This percentage is only slightly lower than in the heyday of these branches of industry, namely in the fifties (45 per cent). In other words the Ruhr area's economy is still dominated by coal and steel



This is also borne out by a look at the unemployment rate: While the across-the-board national unemployment rate amounts to 4.8 per cent (5.1 per cent in Northrhine-Westphalia), unemployment in the Ruhr stands at 6.2 per cent — a clear indication of structural weakness.

What the area still lacks is a diversified industry and infrastructure — in other words more jobs in service industries.

Düsseldorf is not only the seat of the state government, but also the "desk" of the Ruhr. The Ruhr area itself has no medium or high level authorities.

What has changed is the formerly very inadequate range of educational facilities. Following the founding of the first Ruhr university in Bochum, a number of other universities and institutions of higher learning have followed.

Alas, these institutions have not imparted any major impulses concerning the self-appreciation of the Ruhr's population and its image in the nation as a whole.

Whenever newspapers in northern or southern Germany write about the Ruhr or when television deals with the region's problems they do so simply to do "justice" to the Ruhr area — and they do so in cliches. The sad thing about it is that, more often than not, these cliches hit the nail on the head.

Efforts by the Ruhr Settlement Association — so far the only official organisation representing the whole area — to improve the Ruhr's image are laudable.

But the atmosphere of the region, which has meanwhile assumed the traits of a museum with the slogan "Save the Old Miners' Colonies", becomes embarrassing in light of the fact that tour organisers throughout the nation are arranging sight-seeing trips to the "quaint" Ruhr, including the viewing of blast furnaces, many of which have ceased operation.

The coal crisis and the recession in the steel industry, which has lasted for three years now, have contributed towards an ever-increasing number of pensioners among the population. Whole blocks in the traditional mining cities are inhabited virtually exclusively by pensioners.

The only thing that has been built in the Ruhr area in large quantities latterly due to the fact that masses of people are concentrated in small areas and have to live more crowded than anywhere else in the Federal Republic of Germany are department stores and supermarkets of all types and sizes.

As a result, more and more businessmen are wooing fewer and fewer customers. The primary and secondary industries are struggling to find buyers.

Although the future of anthracite mining has by and large been secured latterly there are still difficult years in store; and the steel industry, too, will emerge from the present crisis in a shrunken form. There are no new impulses and the nostalgia surrounding the old miners' settlements is hardly a cure.

Heiner Radzio

(Handelsblatt, 26 May 1977)

Trade with Iraq booming, but red tape a problem

Iraq is one of the Federal Republic of Germany's most important trading partners in the Arab world. At times this rich oil-producing country was even at the top of the list as an importer of German goods in the Middle East.

In 1975, West Germany exported DM2,600 million worth of goods to Iraq. But last year this figure dropped to DM2,200 million. Only Saudi Arabia bought more German products that year.

Representatives of German companies in Baghdad expect German exports to Iraq to rise again steeply in the near future. It is generally agreed that there is room for expansion in the trade between the two nations.

Iraq has also stressed its interest in intensifying trade relations with the Federal Republic of Germany and its businessmen are impressed by the high quality of German goods and the stability of their prices.

A comparison with imports into Iraq from the East bloc, with which that country maintains close political ties, demonstrates Germany's dominant position.

Only eight per cent of Iraq's imports come from Comecon countries.

The importance of Iraq as a market for German goods is also evidenced by the fact that the volume of our trade with that country is greater than the trade volume with Japan.

Germany's trade relations with Iraq show a steep upward trend. While 1973 exports to that country amounted to a modest DM113 million, they rose to DM1,700 million only one year later, reaching a climax in 1975 with DM2,600 million. The largest single order went to Mercedes Benz which supplied 19,000 lorries.

Sixty major German companies established representative offices in Baghdad during the past few years, and many others are represented by local companies.

According to estimates of the German Embassy in Baghdad, some 3,500 staff members of German companies are at present engaged in implementing various projects in Iraq. They are building cement and textile factories, erecting industrial plants on a turn-key basis; they are installing machinery and building chicken batteries.

Construction companies are building roads and bridges across the main rivers, the Eurphrates and the Tigris. Virtually all goods are transported by Mercedes vehicles.

And even Iraq's Army, which is equipped virtually exclusively with Soviet made material, is a customer of German industry.

The low-bed lorries transporting tanks across the country come from the Federal Republic of Germany. And during a recent military parade in Baghdad, foreign military brass — especially from the East bloc — marvelled at German generators used at the take-off of Soviet-built MIG fighter planes.

German business circles in Baghdad stress the country's exemplary punctuality in paying bills — a country whose annual oil revenues amount to 10,000 million dollars. German shipments are paid for cash on the nail and without requests for credit although Iraq belongs to those oil-producing nations which are in the red at present.

The trade balance between Iraq and Germany is negative for the former. West Germany's oil imports from Iraq amounted to DM600 million last year, providing this country with a trade surplus of about DM1,500 million.

Although German business is generally satisfied, there are some complaints concerning trade with Iraq. That country has embarked on a socialist economic course which has a restrictive effect on private business, and bureaucracy in the state-owned companies is frequently an almost insurmountable obstacle.

A Mercedes representative in Baghdad pointed out that the state-owned service station system has given rise to considerable concern. Mechanics are badly trained, and there is chaos and confusion when it comes to providing spare parts.

Compaints can also be heard about the unbelievable lack of interest on the part of government authorities concerning the swift realisation of projects.

A German business representative in Iraq mentioned as an example the planned construction of two breweries for which local companies are supposed to provide the necessary infrastructure. They have been tinkering with the supply for two years.

State-owned companies evidently do not believe in haste although beer is in short supply and would bring the internal revenue some DM80 million per annum in taxes. As a result Germany is trying to convince Iraq government representatives to provide more incentives for private enterprise.

Wolfgang Stockklausner

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 May 1977)

Coal subsidy a dubious crutch

Provided German anthracite is adequately subsidised, there is no reason why turning it into electricity should not prove as profitable as nuclear power.

But the "coal penny", a levy imposed on all electricity users, was depleted by DM294 million in 1976, and the money went to *Vereinigte Elektrizitätswerke Westfalen* (VEW), Dortmund, to induce it to discontinue operations in its modern electricity works operating on cheap Dutch natural gas.

The purpose of this move was to provide more work for the old anthracite power stations and for the power stations of the Ruhr area.

Every kilowatt hour had to be subsidised by 5.118 pfennigs which, according to the major electricity companies, is twice the amount it costs to produce a kilowatt hour in a nuclear power station.

This calculation is arrived at by dividing the DM294 million by the 5,744 million kilowatt hours which, in 1976, VEW produced in addition to its 1975 production by means of anthracite and in the power stations it acquired from mining companies.

In other words, it cost DM294 million to induce VEW to turn 4.03 million tons of anthracite into electricity.

This means that every ton of coal had to be subsidised to the tune of some DM73 in order to make German coal competitive. This DM73 is slightly more than half the list price for German anthracite.

But this calculation is not as straightforward as it might seem because the DM294 million includes DM56 million which VEW had to pay to Holland for the non-purchase of natural gas under the "take or pay" terms of their contract.

After all, the Dutch stored the necessary gas in order to be able to ship it on demand.

Up to now German law has stipulated that anyone applying for coal subsidies had to prove non-utilisation of equivalent quantities of other energy sources. But this nonsense and the gift to Holland is now to be discontinued.

In any event the VEW board hopes that the law will be amended and that it will be permitted to continue operating in its natural gas power stations once the thus generated electricity can be sold to another electricity supply company as a replacement for the more expensive electricity generated by oil.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 27 May 1977)

■ MOTOR MANUFACTURING

Two-fold strategy for Daimler-Benz in world-wide sales battle

Daimler-Benz, motor manufacturers with the largest domestic turnover and certainly the healthiest profit margins in the country, plan to adopt the strategy of a successful soccer team.

The Stuttgart company, which modestly styles itself "not a multi, just a major domestic firm," aims to field an attacking side while maintaining a good defensive record.

The attack will be launched in the private vehicle sector where, starting this year, output is gradually to be increased to half a million cars a year.

This seems bound to hit rival manufacturers; it will certainly do so if managing director Joachim Zahn is right in assuming that growth rates are slowing down as the market nears saturation point.

Roughly thirty per cent of orders placed last year for a new Mercedes came from customers who in the past have bought their cars from other manufacturers.

Daimler-Benz will need to maintain an impeccable defensive record in the commercial vehicles market, however, where Professor Zahn anticipates a Battle of Europe.

In this battle all that Daimler-Benz can hope for is to maintain its current high share of the market, defending its position tooth and nail from the smallest delivery van to the largest juggernaut.

The new range of Mercedes minibuses will clash head-on with the Volkswagen range, while Daimler-Benz's managing director has visions of Italian, Swedish, British and French commercial vehicle manufacturers making an all-out effort to corner a larger slice of the domestic market.

Daimler-Benz's substantial share of the domestic commercial market will be defended by price cuts if need be, Professor Zahn hints.

This twofold strategy will have a wealth of repercussions both for the company and for its balance-sheet. The manufacture of private cars, for one, will need to be decentralised.

This alone is a far-reaching move for Mercedes, which has in the past concentrated car production at its Untertürkheim and Sindelfingen works, manufacturing engines at Untertürkheim with car bodies and assembly facilities at Sindelfingen.

Further expansion having met with misgivings on the part of Baden-Württemberg state planning authorities, commercial vehicle capacity is to be converted to cater for additional demand.

This plan is billed as an instance of management flexibility. The new Mercedes estate car will run off the Bremen assembly lines, probably to be followed by a complete saloon model, production of which will be transferred lock, stock and barrel from Sindelfingen.

At the Mannheim works, where buses are currently manufactured, car seats and a number of engine components from Untertürkheim will soon be manufactured too.

Delivery dates remain the major difficulty, however, ranging from six to seven months for the S category and sports models to more than two years for the 200 to 280 E Mercedes saloons.

This particular problem will get worse before it gets better, since orders are currently coming in at a rate forty per cent above capacity.

Daimler-Benz have already announced plans to invest 6,000 million deutschmarks, and the first 1,000 million are to be invested in this country in 1977, plus a further 200 million deutschmarks abroad.

The company's works in Bremen will benefit to the tune of 230 million deutschmarks this year, while more than 100 million each are to be invested in Kassel and Berlin.

But exports are to be stepped up, especially to the United States, having been deliberately kept on a short rein in 1976 in order to cater for domestic demand. So much of this year's additional output will be shipped straight to the USA.

"In the United States even more than elsewhere lengthy delivery dates mean a corresponding loss of market share," Professor Zahn comments.

Daimler-Benz reckon delivery dates would present no further problems if only output could be stepped up by between 20,000 and 30,000 units a year, or about half the number of new Mercedes — roughly 50,000 or so — sold to members of staff last year.

The directors no longer seem as worried as they once were that the increasing importance of commercial vehicles might prove detrimental to the Mercedes image, although they remain peeved by the aggressive tenor of a recent advertising campaign by up-market rivals BMW of Munich.

Last year the commercial vehicle proportion of turnover declined for the first time in years, with private cars accounting for 48.2 per cent of sales, as opposed to 46.5 per cent the year before.

This trend is likely to continue, and not merely because of the defensive strategy the company have resolved to adopt in the commercial sector. Middle Eastern countries have cut back on their orders of heavy goods vehicles and output of fifteen-tonners and over has declined eleven per cent to 48,000 units.

Much the same applies to profits. Trucks netted much lower profits as a proportion of the total last year, while the bus division continues to operate at a loss, although it is not as deeply in the red as it once was.

By and large, however, this is because private vehicles are the money-spinners at present. Last year they accounted for more than 9,400 million deutschmarks of total turnover.

Car output in units was up 5.8 per cent, but in turnover terms the increase was a substantial eighteen per cent.

It is hardly surprising that company accountants have had difficulty in producing a statement in which burgeoning profits appear more modest than they probably are.

From profits after tax 180 million DM can be seen to have been declared as expenditure to offset what is deemed, in view of inflation, to be only an apparent profit. Capital gains tax is a more accurate reflection of the true profits position.

Joachim Zahn claims this financial strategy is indispensable. The company will badly need reserves on which to fall back in the course of forthcoming market tussles, he maintains.

Shareholders will feel somewhat less aggrieved now that dividend payments have been increased by 23 million to 225 million DM, or 9.50 DM per fifty-deutschmark share.

This is still a mere one per cent of company turnover, as against 1.3 per cent as recently as 1971, but Daimler-Benz are shortly to raise an additional 170 million marks in share capital and existing shareholders will not have to pay a premium.

Even now that corporation tax reforms have been implemented the rights issue is likely to be limited to one for one, since dividends will probably decline further in the short term.

Daimler-Benz in figures

in millions of deutschmarks	1976	Percentage change over previous year
Turnover		
worldwide	23,053	+ 11.9
abroad	13,096	+ 11.4
at home	19,358	+ 12.9
Payroll and welfare spending		
at home	5,219	+ 12.1
Daimler-Benz AG	4,805	+ 12.1
No. of employees		
worldwide	160,863	+ 3.4
at home	126,652	+ 3.1
Investment		
worldwide	840	– 16.2
domestic	744	– 16.5
Daimler-Benz AG	697	– 19.8
Depreciation		
domestic	810	– 0.1
Daimler-Benz AG	185	– 0.1
Taxation		
domestic	1,397	+ 49.5
Daimler-Benz AG	1,378	+ 51.2
Annual surplus		
domestic	413	+ 33.1
Daimler-Benz AG	392	+ 28.4
Output in units		
private cars	370,348	+ 5.8
commercial vehicles		
a) worldwide	247,759	+ 8
b) at home	139,104	+ 7.3
Profits per share (in DM)		
worldwide	33.25	+ 7.7
Daimler-Benz AG	28.20	+ 39.6

"We are not dogmatic on this point," Professor Zahn says. "You may be sure we shall try to strike a sensible compromise."

Turnover for the year as a whole is expected to increase by between eight and ten per cent. Between January and the end of April the increase was 8.9 per cent.

Overall profits will probably increase too, but mainly because managing director Zahn reckons interest payments will again provide a welcome boost to financial prospects.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 27 May 1977)

Elderly prefer to go by foot

Elderly people cover greater distances on foot than they do by public transport, according to a survey of road-users over the age of sixty. But one in four of those questioned reckon to feel unsure of themselves in traffic.

The survey was commissioned by the Federal Road Research Institute, Cologne, and conducted by the road safety research working party at Bielefeld University.

Old people, it seems, tend to direct their feet to the doctor's surgery, to shops, churches, cemeteries, parks and restaurants.

They are more likely to visit friends than relations, excepting only their children. One in three of the over-sixties questioned visit their children nearly every day because, of course, they live nearby.

Most destinations are reached on foot as a rule. Old folk occasionally travel by car, but very seldom use public transport.

One in four, or 24.9 per cent, to be precise, admit to feeling somewhat unsure of themselves in traffic. The most frequent complaints are that traffic lights switch to red too fast, that pavements are too narrow and that bus platforms and tram or train steps are too high up.

(Die Welt, 26 May 1977)

■ ENERGY

Growian, world's biggest windmill, planned as new source of power



Energy consumption and gross national product are closely interlinked, and in this country certainly seem to go hand in hand.

"Energy," Bonn Research Minister Hans Matthöfer recently noted, "is Man's foremost aid in influencing the environment with a view to improving living conditions."

So it is hardly surprising that as raw materials grow scarcer the industrialised countries are investing in alternative energy sources.

Coal, gas, oil and uranium not being available in unlimited quantities, we are left with fire, water, Earth and air — the four elements of the Ancient Greeks.

In comparison with fossil and fissile fuels these four have much in their favour. Unlike conventionally-fired power stations and the pace of industrial development as a whole, they are environmentally unimpeachable at a time when increasing attention is being paid to pollution levels.

There are instances of all four "elements" being harnessed here and now to generate power for Mankind: fire and water in France, Earth and air in this country.

For "fire" read "solar energy" and the answer is France's experimental solar power station in the Pyrenees, while another power station is harnessing tidal power along France's Atlantic seaboard.

Heat pumps can generate power from residual heat in the Earth itself. In Schleswig-Holstein alone an estimated 100 single-family homes are heated in this way. And when it comes to element No. 4, the wind, there is Growian.

Growian stands for *Grosse Windenergie-Anlage* and is a jumbo windmill, or will be, since as yet it exists only on paper. But officials at the non-nuclear energy research department of the Bonn Ministry of Research and Technology envisage Growian towering sky-high somewhere along the North Sea coast before many more years have elapsed.

It would be the world's biggest windmill. After comparison of four designs Ministry officials in Bonn have opted for the Hütter model. Professor Ulrich Hütter of Stuttgart's university plans to mount on a steel pylon at least seventy metres (229ft 8in) tall a rotor consisting of two long, narrow fibreglass-reinforced blades that will rotate at high speed.

The rotor blades will have a diameter of between eighty and 100 metres (262ft and 328ft) and are specially designed to rotate steadily even when the wind changes direction.

On paper Growian appears powerful, stormproof and undemanding in the materials and space it will require. It powers its generator via an axle in the way that might be expected of a windmill, so the basic design remains the same as it has always done.

By 1980 Growian could be generating two to three megawatts in a location where there is no shortage of stiff breezes. Bremerhaven reckons it fills this bill admirably and Horst Grunenberg, the city's MP in Bonn, is confident that Bremerhaven stands a fair chance of selection from among the four applicants to host the power station project.

Horst Grunenberg advocated experiments with windmills back in 1973 when spiralling oil prices first made people seriously consider alternative energy, but his idea was shelved as soon as the immediate shortage no longer loomed so large.

But it was revived as soon as nuclear power came to be regarded as a more dubious option, and the Ministry of Research, which between 1974 and 1976 allocated a mere 3,352,300 deutschmarks for research into wind power, has earmarked roughly five million marks for Growian preliminaries alone. The total project will cost somewhere in the region of twenty million deutschmarks.

The immediate objective is to draft blueprints for construction work. Additional research must be conducted to ensure that the rotor blades remain stable and that pylon and rotor do not part company as a result of oscillation.

A number of meteorological issues also await an answer and, last but not least, the most suitable location must be selected.

Research has already been commissioned and will, the Ministry says, probably start this June and be completed by August next year. The MAN company will be awarded the research contract and, assuming there are no further hitches, construction work could start at the end of 1978 after research results have been evaluated.

So the twenty-million-deutschmark windmill could be in operation by mid-1980.

Since the location must be windswept, Bremerhaven MP Horst Grunenberg remains optimistic that the North Sea port will breeze in first among would-be Growian locations.

Five metres per second is Bremerhaven's year-round wind average, which happens to be the ideal wind speed, or so specialists seen to feel.

Bremerhaven, population 140,000, may also prove a suitable location in another respect. It is also the location of an experimental garbage-fired power station or power-generating incinerator — likewise a Ministry-backed research project.

If Growian is built near the incinerator the power it generates can easily be fed into the grid. Bremerhaven would be happy to provide the site free of charge, complete with space for research facilities and accommodation.

Peak power demand in Bremerhaven is an estimated sixty megawatts. One of these days the city hopes to generate one sixth of this total from wind and garbage — alternative energy with a vengeance!

Jutta Kleine

(Kieler Nachrichten, 25 May 1977)

■ ART

Franz Josef Knubben has new ways of restoring works of art

Art collectors are usually only too happy to confuse the first symptoms of decay among their prints with what, on a metal surface, would be considered patina and of artistic value.

But woodworm is no guarantee that furniture is antique, and spots, stains and discoloration of one kind or another do not make prints more venerable or, for that matter, valuable.

If prints are stored at unsatisfactory temperatures and degrees of humidity they can be transformed within a week into little more than charcoal drawings prior to vanishing as if by magic.

Or let us imagine you are the proud owner of a Nolde print of horses in a meadow. The print is mounted on cardboard and the acid in the board attracts the ink so that you virtually have an offprint — were it not for the fact that the original print is ruined in the process.

Franz Josef Knubben of Lechenich, near Cologne, is probably the art restorer who has devoted most thought and research in recent years to the problems involved in rescue bids to salvage works of art on paper or textiles.

Over the years he has earned an international reputation as an art restorer — so much so that his health began to suffer from inhaling the toxic fumes of chemicals used in his work.

Benzole and tetrachloride fumes started to corrode the mucous membrane in his nose and throat and, oddly enough, it was his doctor who first made the suggestion that prompted him to experiment with an entirely new method of treating ailing prints.

Before setting up in practice on his own, "paper doctor" Franz Josef Knubben spent 26 years as an art restorer at Cologne's Wallraf-Richartz Museum.

Then, with his health savaged by the toxic fumes with which his "patients" were treated, he consulted a medical practitioner who suggested to him that there might be chemical analogies between the treatment of people and of works of art.

As a result the Cologne art restorer set about devising a method of treating ailing prints that is, perhaps, best described as homoeopathic.

The caustic chemicals traditionally used in restoration work achieve temporary results by means of what could be termed shock treatment. But in the long term further decay is sure to result.

No attempt is undertaken to counter the long-term effects of aluminium sulphate, which gradually destroys the fibre of the paper on which a work of art is printed.

What is more, the glue that also forms part of the paper is dissolved, with the result that the surface grows porous and the ink too is dissolved.

"A fair number of people seem to use brand-same detergents to clean their pictures," Herr Knubben relates. Not long ago he was sent an old English print on parchment which a would-be restorer had scrubbed with scouring sand.

As luck would have it, Franz Josef Knubben managed to salvage this particular print, but more often than not he advises customers to keep their fingers crossed.

There are limits to even his ability to restore works of art to their pristine glory. There is nothing that even Franz Josef Knubben can do about a book that is on the point of dissolving into dust.

There are four courses of treatment to which the prints entrusted to his care are subjected in varying degrees, depending on the extent of damage they have sustained.

Neutralisation, cleansing, conservation and restoration are the four stages, and the intensive-care unit at Franz Josef Knubben's surgery consists of three rooms.

The first room contains an assortment of chemicals and equipment he uses to analyse the make-up of the materials he is expected to salvage.

The second contains his machine, complete with process computer. The machine room looks like a cross between a space lab and a chemicals laboratory.

Franz Josef Knubben, who personally designed, constructed and financed his restoration machine, knows only too well how much work and material went into it.

It incorporates 10,000 metres of cable and 4,200 soldered joints. The machine, to which improvements and additions are regularly made, performs mechanically operations that used to be carried out by hand. Its current value is an estimated three and a half million deutschmarks.

The machine can process up to 200 prints a day and does so at less expense than craftsmen who still perform the various operations manually — partly because Knubben charges for labour and materials rather than a rate based on the market value of the work of art.

The first treatment the paper or textile undergoes is a bath in oxygenated water to remove chlorine and static electricity and render the material suitable for further mechanical handling.

Paper in this context can be a book, a letter, a watercolour, a print or a document of one kind or another. Textiles mean fabric of any kind except canvas.

Then Franz Josef Knubben adjusts the programme setting and switches on the device that measures the pH value, showing whether the patient is suffering from acidity or alkalinity or has been restored to neutral.

Once the needle on the pH scale points to a reassuring figure seven, exactly midway between zero and fourteen, the paper or textile may be expected to retain its condition for decades — provided it is suitably stored.

The print is then dried in a special chamber that is initially befogged as droplets of water are atomised into 50,000 particles each.

This process is essential in order to ensure that the glue in the damp paper is softened, but not washed away.

What is more, paper dried in this chamber is not pressed in the conventional manner, like a photographic print after it has been fixed in the darkroom.

An etching, for instance, will leave an imprint in the paper that can easily be felt by the fingertips — but not if it has been pressed after restoration. Knubben's patients retain their original surface contours.

This, then, is Stage One of the Knubben treatment: neutralisation. Stage Two is cleansing.

Franz Josef Knubben remembered how his grandmother used to bleach her washing, and he conducted one experiment after another until he had discovered the right dosage of ultra-violet radiation and a dash of ozone to kill the bacteria and bleach the paper.

He uses quartz valves that are also found in hospitals, where they are used to sterilise operating-theatres.

In Stage Three the paper is given a generous helping of vitamin B 6: "Every substance used is completely harmless both for the work of art and for the operator," Franz Josef Knubben points out.

Vitamin treatment conserves and immunises the paper so satisfactorily that the guarantee period has been extended *from ten to seventy years.* "Paper restoration has gone as far as it need go," the inventor comments.

As a frequent visitor to museums, art galleries and private collections Franz Josef Knubben is fully conversant with the state of decay of works of art in this country. Art worth thousands of millions of deutschmarks is steadily disintegrating, he claims.

It is no coincidence that his first commissions were placed by foreign customers. Fellow-restorers are only slowly beginning to acknowledge his methods and the ignorance and mistrust of owners and custodians of works of art are but slowly being dispelled.

Franz Josef Knubben can now lay claim to success stories that have earned him an international reputation. For the past two years the Brücke Museum in Berlin has entrusted him with its restoration work, including watercolours by Max Pechstein and prints by Karl Schmidt-Rottluff and Ernst Ludwig Kirchner.

He has also restored more than 1,200 drawings, watercolours, prints and Rhine memorabilia in the possession of Bonn's municipal art museum.

Knubben has likewise been entrusted with the artistic legacy of August Macke, while interest in his methods in Scandinavia is so great that a second workshop is shortly to be set up there.

But his most successful work over the past three years has unquestionably been his restoration of paper that has been singed or burnt.

Singeing can in many cases be treated in such a way that the writing or print can be deciphered, while brittle paper can, depending on the extent of decay, be restored to its original flexibility.

Tears or holes in the paper present no problems either. Franz Josef Knubben inserts the damaged sheet of paper between two screens. Water is then poured into the tank to a level just above the surface of the screens.

The "paper doctor" then sprinkles pulp over the screens, spreading it evenly with a whisk. The water is then drained, leaving the pulp to settle in the holes and tears and repair the damaged sheet.

Franz Josef Knubben already knows which objets d'art he next proposes to revolutionise when restoration work is required. He intends to restore old flags and banners.

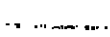
These are usually military regalia in an advanced state of decay which are so brittle that they cannot be taken out of the showcase without running the risk of disintegration.

In the past they have simply been coated in wax, but with the passage of

Continued on page 12









A torn and chemically-damaged Dürer etching before . . . . and after restoration . . . . (Photos: Franz Josef Knubben)

■ EXHIBITIONS

Man's dreams of flying, and the reality



Dicken Eames: *Fliegermaschine für einen kleinen Mann*, 1973 (Flying Machine for a Small Man, 1973) (Photo: Katalog)

The theme of the Fine Arts Section of the Recklinghausen Ruhr Festival ("Flying — A Dream") is sufficiently encompassing to track down the numerous flying motifs in Francesco Goya's dialectic *oueuvre* and to illustrate the whole dramatic range of flying ... flying as dream and nightmare, imagination and reality.

Goya dealt with flying time and again: as myth, religious vision, fiction and caricature, social criticism and "dream of reason" and as allegory of opposites.

In his works we find flying as symbol of time in flight, of freedom and war, of famine, of reason and superstition, of folly and fear and, finally, of being in love. All of this has been endowed with wings, symbolising extraordinary power. Goya's flight motifs in this show are symbolic of fascination, progress and wanton destruction. They depict flying as Man's age-old longing and as a threat at the same time.

From Icarus' reckless flight to the proximity of the sun, which melted his wings, all the way to the moonflights of the Americans — the range of this enthralling theme lends the exhibition playful as well as threatening aspects.

Among flying machine models suspended from the ceiling there is Otto Lilienthal's swing-wing flying apparatus, Tatlin's "Letatlin" and numerous small and large fantasy contraptions by contemporary artists.

There is a continuously inflating and collapsing hot-air balloon, hundreds of colourful chidren's balloons, etchings of the first balloon flights from Nadar's collection, photographs of the fearful air attacks during World War II and photomontages of space exploits, all surrounded by some 200 paintings, aquarelles and etchings with flight motifs.

This horror staging of a curio show lends the dream of flying its terrifying aspects along the lines of Goya's visions as depicted in his "Caprichos": monsters born out pf a dream.

In many ways, this exhibition represents a continuation of Harald Szeemann's show entitled *Junggesellenmaschinen* (Bachelors' Machines). The difference lies in the propulsion mechanisms which led to the invention of such machines.

While in the case of *Junggesellenmaschinen* the artistic imagination revolved around the wish to defend a sphere of living and to seek full autonomy for the individual, where flying is concerned it was aimed at designing flying apparatus with which to conquer new spheres of experience, to experience zero gravity and to discover changed perspectives of adventure.

In the beginning we have the myth of the artist as inventor. Daedalus — sculptor, architect and inventor — escapes the Minoan Labyrinth thanks to his own inventiveness.

He devises wings for himself made of feathers and wax and flees as a bird. Leonardo da Vinci redeems the mythological figure, providing a scientific basis to the fantastic idea of lifting off our earth on wings.

In the centuries that followied too, artists devoted their imagination to technical developments. Nadar, whose collection has so enriched the exhibition with satirical works on balloon flights, was probably one of the last artists to put their inventiveness to good use.

An enthusiastic flyer himself, he built the balloon "Le Géant" in which he flew twice, founded the Society for the Promotion of Air Traffic with Machines Heavier than Air, and initiated the use of balloons during the siege of Paris in 1870. Only the technical achievements which revolutionised the 20th century broke up the original unity of art and technology. They went their separate ways. Inventors became engineers and scientists, placing their inventions entirely in the service of production and technology, while artists increasingly opposed progress.

But soon overtaken by progress, their designs of machines could no longer be realised. Moreover, the artists intentionally used their inventions as barriers against machines, which were by now aimed entirely at production. Reality superseded fiction.

But at the beginning of this century scepticism was still tempered by fascination. Delaunay, for instance, matched the movement euphoria of the Futurists by his enthusiasm for rotating discs of colour, rotating propellers, aircraft and flight perspectives.

He viewed technical innovations with the eyes of a child, with bewilderment and admiration.

He looked at the grandiose fireworks as if blinded: "Departure, flame, evolution of aircraft. Everything is roundness: sun, earth, horizon, the plethora of intensive living — heaven above the cities, dirigibles; towers, aircraft. The entire poetry of modern living is my art."

This was propounded by him as his unequivocal creed. His pictorial homage to the flyer Bleriot of 1914 is also a hymn in which he depicts the simultaneousness of different perspectives, the turbulence of movement seen from the bird perspective as well as from that of a frog.

Gustav Vriesen writes in his monograph: "The designer Delaunay views the designer Bleriot as his brother."

Such fraternisation is hardly imaginable today. The Second World War at the latest led to the turning point.

While some artists engaged in apocalyptic visions, prophesying decline through technology, others attempted to re-mythologise the possible by fictionalising it.

Panamarenko, for instance, builds anachronistic flying machines which can no longer lift off the ground.

Apart from models of civilian and military aircraft, photographs of spacecraft and the whole range of incredibly perfected technology that overshadows everything known hitherto, contemporary artists depict almost exclusively the dangerous side of machinery and its indiosyncrasies — the vicious circle of non-functioning.

The extreme form of the apocalyptic aspect of this theme will be experienced at the "documenta", if HA Schult "succeeds" in staging the crash of an aircraft in a garbage dump near New York and the disaster can be viewed on TV screens in the octagonal Hercules Room in Kassel.

Barbara Catoir

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 25 May 1977)

Trade unions' prize for culture awarded

The Culture Prize of the Federation of German Trade Unions which has hitherto been awarded primarily for the life work of individuals is in future, to have a more promotional character and provide, above all, financial and idealistic support.

The award to the Grips Theatre and the Institute for Project Studies does justice to this objective by promoting both critical and practical cultural work as well as theoretical and scientific reflection.

This was emphasised by Karl Schwab, a member of the Executive Committee of the Federation of German Trade Unions, in charge of cultural policy, at the presentation of the DM25,000 prize in Recklinghausen. *dpa*

(Kieler Nachrichten, 25 May 1977)

Germanic National Museum 125 years old

It was at the summer 1852 Congress of German Historians and Archaeologists in Dresden that Freiherr Hans von und zu Aufsess founded the Germanic National Museum under the slogan "Germanic Museum, Property of the German Nation".

The museum which, according to the founder's wish, was to become a national institution for the scientific teaching of German literature, history and art, was opened six months later — on 3 January 1853 — in Nuremberg.

In time for its 125th anniversary celebration on 1 and 2 June, the museum has re-opened newly arranged departments and will boast several exhibitions.

This also marks the end of reconstruction following heavy destruction — a reconstruction which began in the fifties and cost about 57 million deutschmarks. The museum's exhibits which meet international standards cover an area of 26,000 square metres.

The Germanic National Museum with its manifold collections related to the history of art and culture in the German-speaking region, dating from prehistory to the present, is the only institution of its kind in Germany.

Its collection consists of more than half a million items of art, cultural history and books. Its pre-history and early history collections, art galleries, etchings, library, archives, numismatic collections, weapons, hunting implements and music history department should, strictly speaking, be separate museums in their own right.

The museum's problems lie in its size. Its budget for personnel is too small, and as a result it has an insufficient number of scientists at its disposal.

The institution, which was founded as a foundation, still exists in that form.

Its founder had hoped that the necessary funds would be raised by the citizens, but now it is the federal Government, the state of Bavaria and the city of Nuremberg which foot the administrative bill.

But all actual museum activities (purchases, publications, exhibitions and lectures) have to be paid out of membership fees of the Promotion Association and out of donations.

Director-General Dr Arno Schönberger is thus pretty much in the same boat as the founder of whom it is said that "he became the greatest beggar of his time from whom no one was safe."

Dr Schönberger sees preservation as the museum's present task. He points out that the museum is once more considered a major means of communication by the public, which is evidenced by the work of the Art Education Centre with the help of which thousands of schoolchildren are taught in the museum every year.

This interest, says Dr Schönberger, is not due to nostalgia, but to the many-faceted life of past eras.

The former director, Ludwig Grote, wrote about the founder in 1952, saying that "although his programme was utopian and notwithstanding constant opposition to his all-German idea, his will triumphed in the end".

Viewed in this light, the much-discussed National Foundation already exists in the form of the Germanic National Museum — albeit not in the mind of the public.

Karl-Hermann Eckmann

(Bremer Nachrichten, 26 May 1977)

■ MEDICINE

Infectious diseases are still hard to eliminate

Infectious diseases are not yet under control, said Professor Hans-Joachim Weise, of the Federal Health Office, in Berlin, speaking at the Congress of the German Association for Combating Children's and Other Virus Diseases and the German Green Cross in Munich.

According to Professor Weise, most of today's infectious diseases are connected with our modern way of life and are therefore hard to eliminate. They can certainly not be wiped out by protective vaccinations alone. He pointed out that vaccination must be supplemented by far-reaching social, economic and hygiene measures.

Though our high degree of civilisation has eliminated — or almost eliminated — many types of bacteria and viruses, it has also provided a new breeding ground for some of them. The interplay between virus host and environment is out of kilter, and for many potential bacteria the "ecological niche Man" has become attractive once more.

Professor Weise drew particular attention to the spread of veneral diseases. Of all infectious diseases reported last year, 34 per cent were transmitted by sex, 36 per cent by inhalation and only 30 per cent orally.

The reasons for this change in the pattern of disease transmission and for the shift to to the sex organs are the "promiscuity of affluence", "hidden prostitution", "sex tourism", illegal immigration of foreign workers and growing carelessness in the use of contraceptives.

Diseases transmitted by animals are also on the increase, having reached 15 per cent.

Another alarming element is encephalitis resulting from ticks.

This so-called tick encephalitis, which was formerly known only in Eastern Europe, has now spread to the Federal Republic of Germany — especially to southern Baden, Lower Franconia and Lower Bavaria. This disease affects not only farm and forest workers, but also hikers.

Professor Weise attributed the spread of salmonella to mass animal husbandry and modern meat processing methods.

The changing course of infectious diseases — so to speak a new marching order of viruses — which can best be explained by migration and adaptation of the various kinds of viruses requires new methods in the immunisation of the jeopardised and the treatment of sick people.

The usual protective vaccination frequently comes too late or serum from weak or dead bacteria obtained from animal blood is not sufficiently effective. In some instances alien protein leads to so-called serum diseases resulting from over-sensitivity.

There are however changes in the offing in that sector. It will soon become feasible to produce serum from human blood and to use it for the prevention and cure of diseases. The Munich Congress devoted two days to this subject with its many still open questions.

The substances making it now already possible to administer "passive vaccination" instead of the active form by animal serum against certain infections are protein antibodies.

They form in people who have been vaccinated against infectious diseases or those who have weathered them. But the production of an effective serum requires blood plasma from between 1,000 and 2,000 people.

Such passive immunisation provides instant — if only temporary — protection. It can be used in emergency cases as in the case of bites from a dog suspected of being rabid or in case of diphtheria.

This method is also extremely helpful in cases for which there is no active immunisation as yet, as for instance infectious hepatitis or encephalitis.

This type of vaccination can also be used for mumps and measles (according to Professor Weise, both these diseases are latterly gaining in importance).

Passive vaccination can also be used in cases of tetanus, German measles and smallpox (once this vaccination is no longer compulsory). It can also help mothers with a negative rhesus factor to develop antibodies, thus preventing danger to the child.

A considerable number of applications for the production of such vaccines has been received by the Federal Office for Serums and Vaccines. *Karl Stankiewitz*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 21 May 1977)

Two share Ernst Jung prize for medicine

The DM300,000 Ernst Jung Prize for medicine — the Federal Republic of Germany's financially most rewarding prize — has been shared by a German and an American researcher.

The German immunologist Professor Georg Springer of Evanston, Illinois, and the American internist Professor John West of La Jolla, California, personally received the prize in Hamburg.

The award was instituted by the Hamburg businessman Ernst Jung in 1975 and was first awarded last year following Herr Jung's death.

The prize is awarded for medical discoveries which "are already helping Man" — always on 18 May, Ernst Jung's birthday.

Professor Springer was awarded the prize for developing a skin test by means of which early diagnosis of breast cancer and other malignant tumours has become possible.

The method is relatively simple and similar to the tuberculosis test. Successes so far have been excellent, according to Professor Springer. The medical principle underlying this test could also possibly be used for the cure of malignant growths. Medical tests are still in progress.

Professor West received the prize for fundamental work on the oxygen absorption of blood in the lungs. He discovered that the functioning of the lung is considerably affected by gravity which is particularly conspicuous in cases of shock or in the case of emphysema of the lung.

According to the Jung Foundation committee, Professor West's work led to considerable progress in the treatment of accident cases and lung diseases.

The practical application of his findings has already greatly benefited innumerable people suffering from respiratory ailments throughout the world.

Professor Springer has lived and worked in the United States since 1951, but has retained his German citizenship.

The internist, Professor West, comes from Australia. He accompanied Sir Edmund Hillary during his 1953 conquest of Mount Everest in order to be able to study breathing at great altitudes.

dpa

(Kieler Nachrichten, 23 May 1977)

Too-short limbs can now be lengthened

People with limbs of different lengths due to illness usually feel handicapped, especially when the legs are affected. They have to wear orthopaedic shoes, which are conspicuous and aesthetically unsatisfactory.

As a result, these people frequently prefer to do without such aids, which leads to an awkward and unhealthy posture.

Corrective surgery has also left a great deal to be desired. The only choice left to surgeons was to shorten the healthy leg by removing a section of bone, mostly from the thigh.

The result is that both legs are subsequently of equal length while the patient as a whole has become shorter and thus out of proportion. The length of stride is shortened and frequently the knees are at different heights.

As a result, a new method of treatment is being worked on at various surgical centres in the Federal Republic of Germany. This involves leaving the healthy leg untouched and stretching the short one by up to 22 cm.

The advantages of this method have recently been explained by Professor Heinz Wagner, head of the Orthopaedic Clinic of Altdorf near Nuremberg, by means of photographs of patients.

The success of this type of treatment is startling. It enables surgeons to stretch the femur and, in some instances, the fibula to such an extent within a matter of months that the formerly badly malformed patient acquires a perfectly normal appearance.

In one case it was possible to stretch the legs of a child suffering from dwarfism by 13 cm. The same method can also be used to stretch arms.

Professor Wagner described the procedure as follows: A long metal pin is inserted at the upper and lower ends of the bone to be stretched. These pins protrude through the skin.

The bone is then sawn through in the centre and a telescopic extrusion mechanism is attached to the pins. From then on the patient himself controls the growth of his leg by turning a knob on the telescope by 1.5 mm a day.

New bone tissue forms where the bone has been sawn through, thus lengthening it. However the lengthened bone must be supported by a steel plate at the end of the treatment.

This new method could restore normal appearance to people who have hitherto depended on unsightly orthopaedic shoes.

But since the operation is rather complicated and requires a great deal of surgical know-how, Professor Wagner recommends that only a limited number of patients be treated in this manner, above all young people between the ages of 8 and 20 where the difference in the length of the limbs is at least 4 cm.

In all cases this method requires full cooperation on the part of the patient.

In the case of children suffering from dwarfism Professor Wagner says that "the argument that dwarfs measuring less than 110 cm cannot integrate in society because, for instance, they cannot reach a bank teller's window or use a public telephone is perfectly valid.

"But even so, an operation is only indicated if the patient is likely to cooperate and if it can be expected to achieve an extension of the patient's height by more than 10 cm."

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 23 May 1977)

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time the wax grows no less brittle than the fabric.

Franz Josef Knubben plans to coat the flag or banner in a special silk fibre manufactured in the United States. This fibre allows air to pass through, so the flag remains (or is rendered) flexible.

Knubben would with the work of restoring the papers of Walter Gropius in Berlin. They include many varieties of paper, some of which he has yet to handle.

But time is short. Between 1968 and 1970 the contents of the Gropius archives decayed a further thirty per cent. "Just imagine," he adds, "they even store the individual sheets of paper in plastic folders."

The average collector should not find it too difficult to heed Franz Josef Knubben's advice. Unsatisfactory storage conditions, environmental pollution and the acid content of mountings and backing sheets are the principal offenders where paper decay is concerned.

His advice is to use only mountings, backing sheets, passe-partout and frames which contain no free or uncombined acids. Nearly all cardboard is acidic, which is the kiss of death for the prints that are mounted on it.

There is only one manufacturer of non-acidic boards in the Federal Republic. Collectors should make a point of asking for its product by name at the dealer's where they have their prints framed.

Cardboard manufactured in the immediate post-war years is the worst, Franz Josef Knubben maintains. It contains so much chlorine, ammonia and ferrous sulphate that paper mounted on it rots in next to no time.

Paper and textiles are living materials, Knubben is at pains to reiterate. They are organic beings, just like humans and animals, and not inanimate objects.

Chipboard also has a high acid rating and corrode paper that is mounted on it. Passe-partout only conserves the print when it is non-acidic and allows sufficient air to circulate.

Acrylic glass or a plate glass frame without passe-partout deprive the print of air and accelerate its decay. Acrylic glass also charges the paper fibre with static electricity, speeding up the process of decomposition.

Plastic frames make a print sweat. Safes may keep thieves at bay, but their contents grow too dry, with results even worse than theft. A work of art that has been stolen may at least be recovered; one that has disintegrated is gone for good.

Steel filing cabinets, on the other hand, are like a sauna bath — except that paper does not take kindly to this treatment. *Rosemarie Bölts*

(Deutsche Zeitung, 20 May 1977)

■ HISTORY

Poignant memories for the women who cleared the bomb rubble of Berlin

Once a month two to three dozen elderly ladies meet at a Berhin restaurant. They congregate round a blue silk club pennant on which a spade and a pickaxe are embroidered in gold.

There is no speechmaking and the usual accountrements of club life. Leading politicians seldom attend club gatherings. Yet this club is a living testimony to post-war history in Germany in general and Berlin in particular.

Its members have not forgotten the role they once played in contemporary history — a backbreaking contribution to post-war recovery that earned them a place in history itself.

They are the Berlin rubble-clearers' club, which was constituted twelve years ago. Nowhere but in Berlin with its sense of history could one imagine a club being formed in memory of a period which most people who lived through it would soonest forget.

Who were the rubble-clearers, or *Trümmerfrauen* as they are known in German? It is no use consulting an encyclopaedia. This is one entry that is missing under the letter T. Unless you happen to know who they were and what they did you could let your imagination wander for a month of Sundays without appreciating the elbow-grease they contributed towards the history of the post-war era.

Rubble was certainly an apt description of what was left of Berlin after VE Day. The city was in ruins. The men were either dead, missing in action or in PoW camps in Russia, France, Italy and elsewhere.

So women were left with the job of clearing up the ruins. They were paid 63 pfennigs an hour.

Anni Mittelstädt, club chairman, recalls the aftermath of war and defeat. "First, when the Russians came, we women formed gangs of volunteers raised by (Nazi) Party members.

"Then, in September, sites were established on a regular basis, building contractors switched to demolition and clearance work and adverts began to appear on the hoardings for women to work as rubble clearers."

The concept of the *Trümmerfrau* was not coined until a couple of years later, however. By 1947 or so, when the Russians were starting to make life difficult in the divided city. American correspondents started to refer to the phenomenon.

These women working eight- or ten-hour days sorting, clearing and carting away the rubble suddenly came to symbolise more than mere cheap labour.

"There is no mistaking the spirit of Berlin, even in the ruins that are all that is left of Hitler's madness. Even the ruins convey the unmistakable atmosphere of Berlin," Rudolf Pechel wrote in November 1946.

"For a time," he added, "it looked as though Berlin might never recover from the cheerlessness of its post-war condition — a condition that served only to emphasise the tragedy of a city lacking in water, gas, electricity, public transport, garbage disposal, regular food supplies and even money.

"The prevailing sentiments were hopelessness and despair. People's faces were stark with anxiety …"

"In May 1945 we felt Berlin would never recover," Margaret Boveri wrote. "By the time winter came round we were no longer merely registering the course of events, but starting to think in terms of starting afresh and making Berlin a city fit to live in again."

This, then, is what it was like, and the women who cleared the rubble were an undeniable sign of the times.

"Our possessions were reduced to little or nothing," Anni Mittelstädt recalls. "The only commoditly of which there was no shortage was work.

"We started at seven in the morning and worked untill five in he afternoon, with half an hour for lunch and a quarter of an hour for breakfast.

"The older women cleaned up bricks. I carted them in barrows. Rubble was sorted immediately, with bricks that were still in one piece being taken to the women who cleaned them up, chopping off the mortar.

"The bricks were then arranged in piles of 1,000 per four piles. Whole bricks were immediately put to use in reconstruction. Broken bricks and rubble were driven to Tegel where they were used to make up the foundations of the second airport runway."

How many women worked in rubble clearance? Anni Mittelstädt does not know. They certainly came from all walks of life and classes of society.

Frau Mittelstädt first worked in the city-centre near the old *Rathaus*, which is now in East Berlin. She remembers Lourise Schroeder's short term as *Oberbürgermeister*. She also remembers Ernst Reuter, the Blockade and the Airlift.

The wages rubble clearers were paid was just about enough to pay the rent and buy such food as was available on ration. It was certainly not enough to pay for anything extra.

In 1945 Anni Mittelstädt was a 45-year-old widow. Her pension rights were a matter for conjecture. Her eldest son had been killed in action in Russia, her daughter was a prisoner of war.

Only her youngest son was still at home. "He is now a foreman at Siemens," she adds. In other words, she led a fairly average life for those days.



For 63 pfennigs an hour they cleaned up the city's ruins (Photo: Ullstein)

The rubble clearers laughed a lot, she says, but they were never far from tears either. Yet they stuck together through thick and thin.

"There were days in September 1945 when a woman would turn up crying her eyes out. She had just learnt that her husband had been killed in action.

"Then another woman would arrive with the news that her husband had returned from imprisonment. One woman helped another and, you know, suffering was something we shared in common. The spirit of togetherness survives to this day."

Reconstruction was the keyword, and with hardship on all sides homes were rebuilt well into the late fifties. Many post-war tenement blocks would already look better for demolition. They were never a sight for sore eyes, just homes hurriedly built at a time when what people needed most was a roof over their heads.

In he economic miracle years that followed the 1948 currency reform and the introduction of the deutschmark the work of the rubble clearers was gradually forgotten — even by the women who hid toiled away amid the ruins.

Trümmerfrauen did not hit the headlines again until 1964 when *Bild-Zeitung* called on former rubble clearers to write in and recall their experiences.

At a Christmas party attended by Willy Brandt, Anni Mittelstädt suddenly thought what a good idea it would be to set up a club. "Go ahead and do it," Herr Brandt said.

Willi Meisel, the entertainer, lent a hand. "He really got things moving," Frau Mittelstädt recalls. The only club regulation that was introduced and has since been strictly enforced is 'no religion' and 'no politics'."

The club suffered several setbacks. Willy Brandt went to Bonn as Foreign Minister and later Chancellor. Willi Meisel died. Willy Brandt's successors as Mayor of Berlin, especially Klaus Schütz, no longer bothered about the *Trümmerfrauen*.

"Once only, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Blockade, Herr Schütz invited the club to a dinner. Then, the invitation was withdrawn."

Official support was not forthcoming. It was, after all, only a club and not a legal entity. But encouragement was given. Senators Klaus Riebschläger and Harry Liehr put in appearances, as did the borough burgomasters of Wedding, Wilmersdorf and Neukölln.

Lilo Berger, a Christian Democrat Bundestag deputy, was voted an honorary member.

The club's finest hour came in 197[illegible]. It was in April, Anni Mittelstädt recalls, and she was unable to get a good night's sleep. "You will just have to write a letter to the head of State," she told herself, did so, and before she knew who she was it all started happening.

Anni Mittelstädt was invited to Schloss Belevue, the Berlin residence of the Federal President. Gustav Heinemann presented the chub with a cheque for 500 deutschmarks and decorated Frau Mittelstädt with the Federal Order of Merit.

Visitors still turn up now and again, particularly from the United States, to ask questions about what life as a rubble clearer was like.

They sometimes come because there is going to be a film about post-war Berlin, sometimes because they are writing a PhD thesis about the post-war history of the city.

The club once had 141 members. Only 49 are left. Many have died and some are too ill to attend functions regularly. There are no newcomers.

Anni Mittelstädt put down her spade and pickaxe for good in 1952. At club meetings members are forever exchanging reminiscences, but sometimes their children and grandchildren also attend.

They do amateur dramatics, hold carnival parties and arrange outings to Bad Oeynhausen, Bad Schlangenbad and Fulda. But the club's days are obviously numbered.

"Berlin used to be much more attractive", Anni Mittelstädt says, and fellow members readily agree. She means, of course, pre-war Berhin. But maybe she also has in mind the immediate post-war era.

Back in those rubble-clearing days a generation ago there was an inexplicable but unmistakable sense of solidarity. There was little to eat. It was cold. People did not get much sleep. But they paid more attention to the needs of others — probably more than people do today — and because they depended much more on each other.

Frau Mittelstädt is upset by the thoughtless and impudent behaviour of schoolchildren who smoke in public and refuse to let her, an old lady, through the street door of her own home.

She frankly admits that she is worried. "No one knows what is going to happen to Berlin. One concession after another is made and the East is still never satisfied." There is no doubt as to the quarter from which trouble is expected, but this is, perhaps, hardly surprising in West Berlin.

Anni Mittelstädt is now 77 and many of the chub's members are little younger. The club pennant will not retain its place of honour indefinitely.

What, then, is the purpose of the club? "Were it not for us, people would not stick together", this sprited old lady rejoins. "And no one would know any longer what Berlin *Trümmerfrauen* were."

True enough. There is, of course, a monument in Neukölln dedicated to the memory of the rubble clearers, but it is not very attractive and not very well kept. Before long it will be the only reminder of a generation of women who made post-war history.

Claus Menzel

(Deutsche Zeitung, 20 May 1977)

■ SPORT

Werner Nowak's women's hockey team continues its run of wins

Werner Nowak has made the grade. At 33 he is chief coach of the country's women's hockey team and has so far been a resounding success despite sceptics who forecast, when he took over the job at the end of last year, that he might have bitten off more than he could chew.

Would he, they wondered, command sufficient authority at his age? Could he, as the first full-time successor to Ernst Willig, who coached the women's team in an honorary capacity, equal his predecessor's track record?

Ernst Willig, when all is said and done, led his squad to FIH world championship honours in spring 1976.

Would Nowak carry the powers of conviction required of the post? He might have played for his country himself, but he was never more than a good average player at intenational level.

Werner Nowak has passed his first two tests with flying colours. At the end of January his team won the European indoor championship title and they have gone on to win all four full internationals played so far this year.

With these wins to their credit the team have succeeded in maintaining a proud tradition, having been unbeaten in their last fifteen full international encounters.

What is more, the team's first four victories with Nowak as coach have not been mere run-of-the-mill friendlies. The 2-0 win over Scotland and the 2 - 1 triumph over England at Santander, Spain, were victories that will count for more than routine run-outs.

At the end of 1979 team showings over the past few seasons will be reviewed by a commission composed of representatives of both international federations, the women's section of the Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH) and the International Federation of Women's Hockey Associations (IFWHA).

The commission will consider who beat whom, and under what circumstances, drawing up a list of seeded teams, as it were. The first five teams will take part in the women's hockey tournament at the Moscow Olympics. Number six will be the host country, the Soviet Union.

This country has beaten England, the IFWHA's reigning world champion, on neutral ground — which is not, of course, to say that the Federal Republic's team is as good as nominated to take part in the Olympic tournament.

Yet of the two current world champions this country alone is undefeated, even though the team is coached by a trainer whose appointment was viewed with such misgivings only a few months ago.

The questions asked when he took over the job are now nearer being answered. Age, after all, is a questionable yardstick of authority, and Werner Nowak has solved this particular problem in his own way.

The average age of the team he coached to victory over Scotland was under twenty-one. "The young team I am now in the process of forming should reach its peak in three years' time," he says. "I aim to make sure they return from Moscow with Olympic medals in their pockets."

This comment in part answers the second question that was raised when Werner Nowak took over the coaching job. He is unperturbed by his predecessor's record. "There is no time to look back in sport," he says. "You have to look forward all the time."

This leaves only the third question: whether he is the man for the job in view of his personal playing record. The answer will not be to the liking of hockey diehards.

It is that Werner Nowak has gained much of his coaching experience in association football. He is a qualified soccer trainer, looks forwards to qualifying as a football teacher and still plays, whenever he can, in the midfield for his local club in Mettmann, a Düsseldorf suburb.

Werner Nowak (Photo: Horstmüller)

One of the ideas he brought with him from soccer was that of taking a good look at the opposition prior to his own team's fixture. This stratagem has hitherto been unusual in the less hectic world of women's hockey.

Since he well appreciated that the fixture against England could prove crucial for his team's Olympic prospects he flew to London in early March to take a closer look at the English women in their match against New Zealand.

Hanspeter Detmer

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 26 May 1977)

Tenth anniversary for Federal Sports Aid Foundation

Meeting in Munich at a tenth anniversary session of the board of governors the Federal Republic Sports Aid Foundation called on State and society to redouble their efforts on behalf of the country's top-flight athletes.

A succession of speakers denoted the Foundation as a success story in the history of attempts to lend competitive amateur sport in this country a helping hand.

State secretary Gerhard Baum, speaking on behalf of Bonn Interior Minister Werner Maihofer, promised that the government would continue to support and encourage the Foundation to the best of its ability.

Frankfurt mail order magnate and Olympic equestrian ace Josef Neckermann, chairman of the Foundation, noted in his report that over the past ten years the Foundation has raised donations to the value of 85 million deutschmarks including 77.9 million marks in cash.

Sixty million deutschmarks has been invested in grants to top-flight athletes — 7,217 men and women over the past decade.

On behalf of organised sport in the Federal Republic Willi Daume, president of the National Olympic Committee and the man who masterminded the Munich Olympics, and Willi Weyer, president of the Federal Republic Sports League, representing over fourteen million members of affiliated sports clubs and organisations, expressed their gratitude for the work the Foundation has been able to do.

Eberhard von Brauchitsch, deputy chairman of the Foundation, called on commerce and industry to step up their direct contributions to the Sports Aid Foundation's work.

State secretary Baum appealed to sportswear manufacturers in particular to be more generous with their donations to the Foundation.

The Ministry of the Interior and the Federal government have lent substantial indirect assistance, he noted. Commemorative postage stamps have, for instance, been issued with a surcharge from which the Foundation has benefited.

But donations from other sources continue to be needed, he pointed out.

Herr Baum also referred to the declaration of principle recently made jointly by the Sports League and the NOC. The Federal government, he said, welcomed tie declaration's unqualified commitment to top-flight competitive sport.

He went on to say that the declaration's clear ruling on drugs, hormone pills and the like would also prove invaluable in setting standards by which organised sport would do well to abide.

Eberhard von Brauchitsch had a word to say in defence of specialists in sports medicine. It is high time criticism of sports doctors, especially by unqualified commentators, ceased, von Brauchitsch maintained.

In view of the unqualified rejection of doping and the like in the 1 April joint declaration Josef Neckermann reckoned that this country's leading athletes deserved a bonus for fair play whenever comparisons were drawn between their performances and those of leading athletes in other countries.

The general public must appreciate that in the circumstances this country is bound to forfeit avantages by not resorting to prohibited drugs.

Former women's discus world record holder Liesel Westermann, speaking on behalf of fellow-athletes, expressed dismay at the prospect of all first-rate performances in future rendering the athlete liable to suspicion of resorting to prohibited drugs.

Frau Westermann, who has several national titles to her credit, was heartily applauded when she called on sports officialdom to nominate all reigning national champions to represent their country in international competitions.

The gala was inaugurated with entertaining addresses by Bavarian Premier Alfons Goppel and Munich burgomaster Eckard Müller-Heydenreich. It proved to be a gala occasion for the athletes themselves in particular.

Erhard Keller, two-time Olympic gold medallist in speed skating, introduced 32 present and past Olympic athletes "in civilian dress." The guests of honour — politicians and industrialists — were so impressed by this tribute to the Sports Aid Foundation's work that spontaneous donations totalling 30,000 deutschmarks were raised.

dpa/sid

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 27 May 1977)